

VALENTINE'S

DAY

SUCKS

INSIDE OPINION

...OR DOES IT?

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

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INSIDE A&E:

KISS-OFFS AND

TORCH SONGS

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THE GATEWAY

volume CI number 32 • t

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Grappling with the competition

The young University of Alberta wrestling team is hoping to make a big impact in this weekend's Canada West Finals in Saskatoon.

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Valenteeto is seduced

Metaleeto is tempted by villainess Botany Babe, whose seductive charm may be too hot to handle

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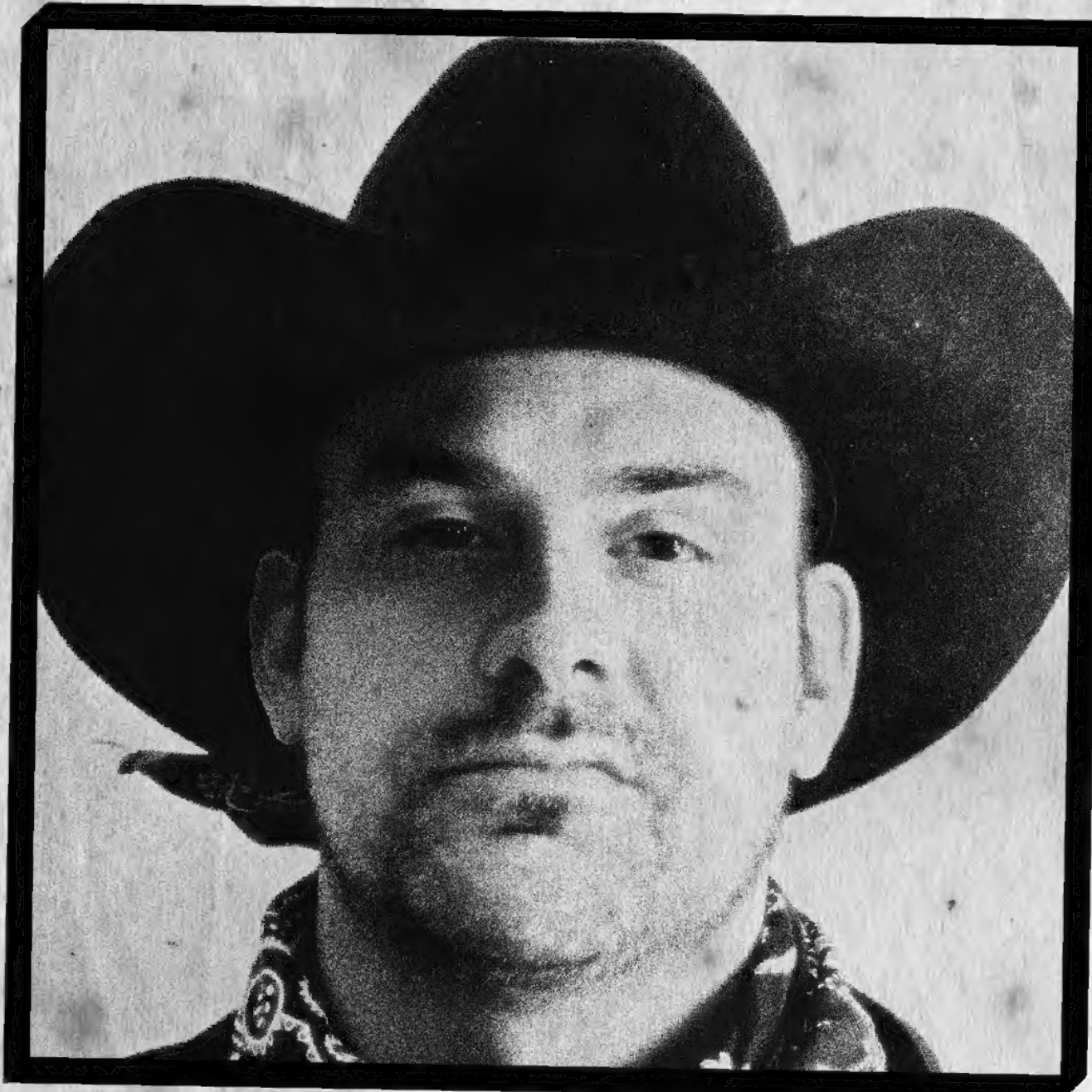
"Lister culture is insular to the point of incest."

Matt Meuse tells Listerites complaining about the proposed floor changes to stop whining.

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WANTED

THE GATEWAY PURITY TEST



"BLACK SAL"



"THE HARLOT"

REPENT YE YOUR SINS OR REVEL IN THEM

THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

thursday, february 10, 2011
volume CI number 32Published since november 21, 1910
Circulation 10,000
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Jonn Kmech
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168**MANAGING EDITOR** Justin Bell
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Alexandria Eldridge
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Simon Yackulic
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664**OPINION EDITOR** Alix Kemp
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Madeline Smith
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052**SPORTS EDITOR** Matt Hirji
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652**PHOTO EDITOR** Dan McKechnie
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Lance Mudryk
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663**ONLINE EDITOR** Jordan Ching
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Ashleigh Brown
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669**AD SALES MANAGER** Vikram Seth
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Vikki Wiercinski
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647**CIRCULATION PAL** Nick Frost
CIRCULATION PAL Kathryn Dutchak
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca

THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.



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The Gateway periodically adjusts its circulation between 8,000 to 10,000 printed copies based on market fluctuations and other determining factors.

colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Pirates!* and *Boggle*.

contributors

Aaron Yeo, Andrew Jeffrey, Ross Vincent, Alex Migdal, Kaitlyn Grant, Hayley Dunning, Sara Kotow, Ryan Bromsgrove, Sophie Wensel, Evan Daum, Dulguun Bayasgalan, Natalia Knowlton, Dustin Blumhagen, Matt Meuse, Kory Orban, Carole Yue, Wayne Simon, Gabby Riches, Bruce Cinnamon, Katherine Speur, Alana Willerton, Jon Grier, Faye Campbell, Benjamin Ripley, Lauren Alston, Paul Cresey, Benjamin Nay, Brad Chury, Sam Brooks, AmirAli Sharifi, Peter Holmes, Claudine Champion, Armand Ludnick, Kaitlyn Menard, Kapil Vachar, Paul Swanson, Ben Leung, Kevin Lee Pinkoski Skybox by Dan McKechnie

SUBmart employee brightens everyone's day

campusprofile

JUSTIN BELL
Managing Editor**MATT HIRJI**
Sports Editor

He's a pillar of the SUBmart experience, the friendliest man who's ever worked a cash register. But for Michael Doyle, keeping a positive attitude while serving the snack needs of an entire campus is more than simply putting on a happy face.

Doyle, 22, makes an impression on everyone he encounters. His smiling face greets hundreds of parched and famished students every day as they search for a quick pick-me-up. The third-year political science student and employee of SUBmart is the one guy who can brighten even the darkest of days with his positive outlook on life.

"It's not something that just falls out of the sky," said Doyle of his positive attitude. "It's something you do have to put a conscious effort into. If you don't make that conscious effort, you can get caught up in patterns of negative thinking."

Coming into contact with this motivational cashier can be as simple as slipping into SUB to buy a Slurpee on a quiet Tuesday and coming face-to-face with Doyle's toothy grin and pleasant demeanour. He'll often refer to the cost as "merely a toonie-loonie," or start up random conversations with strangers, just to get a smile on your face.

His optimism has a lot to do with his current education, a political science major who's taken a shining to

philosophy. He's been reading Sartre as part of a political philosophy class, and has taken it to heart, letting the philosopher's writings guide his positive attitude.

"Existentialist philosophy has helped me out with it," Doyle added. "You are responsible for your own life and the choices you make in it. Having a positive attitude isn't something that happens by accident. It's something you do with other people."

But Doyle's story starts long before his stint shilling sweet and salty snacks on SUB's main floor. Originally from St. Albert, Doyle decided to attend the University of Lethbridge after high school. He had originally entered into a business program, but became conflicted because of his Marxist leanings. Realizing that he was far more interested in the social sciences, he transferred to the University of Alberta to focus on his passion for political philosophy and labour organizations.

Political philosophy is his passion — something he has developed an insatiable desire for, heading to an undisclosed location in Rutherford South to research politics between his shifts at SUBmart. Everything from philosophy to historical records are of interest to the avid researcher.

But what's in the future for the happy-go-lucky SUBmart employee? Along with a friend, he's looking into the possibility of starting an alternative journal combining Cree perspectives with a broader capitalist philosophy. Titled *Tipeyimisowin*, it means "a system of determining one's own thought," though could also roughly be

MATT HIRJI

translated as "freedom."

Politics and SUBmart aside, there is something that you can't put your finger on that makes Doyle so charismatic.

"In reference to what makes Mike, Mike: there is absolutely nothing

that it can be boiled down to," Doyle explains. "Maybe I've been reading too much existentialism. There is no one irreducible element. There are only a series of elements that are always functioning in reciprocal and complicated relationships."

RETRACTION

The Gateway was recently informed that two comic strips published in the paper, the January 18 and February 1 editions of the comic *Life in the Slow Lane*, were plagiarized from strips originally created on a webcomic called Johnny Wander (www.johnnywander.com). Upon reviewing the comics, we determined that plagiarism had occurred.*The Gateway* highly values the integrity of its content and maintains a strict no-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. As a result, the artist has been banned from volunteering for the paper. *The Gateway* formally retracts the two editions of the comic and apologizes to the creators of Johnny Wander.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Nick Frost and Aaron Yeo*As you may be aware, Valentine's Day is just around the corner and I'm (yet again) without a date. Would you like to go out with me Saturday night?***Laura Curley**
Science I**Adelle Mayrhofer**
Engineering IV**Aden Murphy**
Willing to lend out his girlfriend, apparently**Marie Lane**
Business II

Probably not. I have to study for my midterm.

I have a fiancé so I don't think he'd like that. [So then what do you two have planned for Valentine's Day?] He's going to work and I'm writing an exam.

I'll check with my girlfriend. [What's she doing Saturday night?] I can't remember if we have anything going on. Definitely not on Friday night. Sorry. [My heart is breaking a little.] Well, Friday night is the Wool on Wolves concert — unless you want to go with my date to the Wool on Wolves concert. [That is entirely possible.] Okay, well we can do that then. Deal? [Deal.]

Saturday night? Valentine's Day is Monday, isn't it? [Okay, valid point. But I'm assuming we'll all be busy on Monday.] Okay. On Saturday night? Yeah.

STAR-FROST LOVERS, starring Nick Frost. Check out thegatewayonline.ca for video of Nick trying to get a date for Valentine's Day!

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history - with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila. - MITCH RADCLIFFE

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Plans for new Physical Activity Centre nearing completion

SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor

Initial plans for the projected \$57 million Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre are progressing as the Students' Union continues to negotiate an agreement with the University of Alberta to ensure undergraduate direction in the new facility.

Students' Union President Nick Dehod said the SU has been meeting with representatives from the university to discuss what should be in the new building, and he expressed enthusiasm for the facility's layout.

"I think the designs that are coming up are exciting and I think this will really change campus a lot," Dehod said. "We're very close to the end of schematic design, which will mean where the actual physical spaces are and how the building is oriented. Once that's signed off on, we'll move onto the next stage, which is design development — which is where do the doors go, what kind of doors, things like that."

Included in the design is a climbing wall, a new exercise centre that will be three times the size of the current one, and a concourse with food vendors. As the project is focused on wellness, the food served will be healthier in nature. Dehod added that the plans include a space for a student kitchen.

"The thing that's important about wellness is not just the food elements themselves, but also this idea of having a community kitchen — a teaching kitchen — giving students the opportunity to watch or learn how to make different dishes," Dehod said, noting that potential physical activity uses within the space will stretch beyond purely a gym. They're going to be adding space for yoga, meditation, and prayer.

"We've added more studio space for more things like yoga. There's still fitness but we're having more discussions about how we can accommodate meditation space on campus. It's becoming a different conversation, but we're discussing how we can accommodate things like prayer into the facility."

The SU has been involved in construction in the past, in cases such as HUB, SUB and University Hall, which was the previous



DAN MCKECHNIE

VOICE FOR STUDENTS Dehod has been involved in PAW Centre planning.

Students' Union building. "This is different in that this isn't a Students' Union building. This is a building that will be operated on a day-to-day basis by the university — by [the Faculty of] Physical Education and Recreation — but it does have a student majority group that provides direction in terms of how the building can work. So it's different than other places on campus in that students don't necessarily own the building, but they have representation and a voice in the direction the building takes," Dehod noted.

The committee that will provide direction for the PAW Centre will be made up of a majority of students.

"That's part of the agreement, which is ironing that out, but essentially you'd have a student majority working with the people responsible for the day-to-day operations and providing direction on an annual basis."

In 2006, there was a failed referendum to create a Physical Activities Complex. Last year's referendum on the PAW Centre, which passed with 52 per cent of the vote, spelled out the conditions that the SU will include in the agreement with the university. One of the conditions of the referendum was that students wouldn't start paying for the building until after it was usable. Dehod feels that other aspects of the PAW Centre also made

it more favourable to students than the previous offering.

"One of the reasons why I think this referendum was successful was because this time there was more student involvement with the development of the project, [and] that it's not only focused on fitness but wellness as well, and there was more discussion around sustainability," Dehod said.

University of Alberta Associate Vice President (Facilities and Operations) Bart Becker was equally enthusiastic over the potential in the project for both students and staff.

"First and foremost, we think it's an incredible opportunity to link some much-needed health and wellness infrastructure on our campus with some much-needed program space for Phys. Ed. and Rec.," Becker said. "It touches almost everyone on this campus."

"I think the larger facility will provide a greater opportunity for all members of the university community to work towards a healthy lifestyle."

Becker said that he hoped the design phase of the project would be brought forward to the facility development committee this summer, and that they will be in position to award the project for tender by the new year — making 2012 the earliest that construction can begin.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Alexandria Eldridge

DIDN'T WANT TO MISS GLEE

On January 30 at about 4 a.m., UAPS staff assisted Edmonton police in the investigation and arrest of a man for stealing a television from 10 Henday in Lister. Several Henday residents detained a male seen getting out of an elevator with a television. When questioned about who he was, the intoxicated male, who was not a Lister resident, provided a OneCard to the UAPS officers. He was charged with theft and mischief for damaging the television. Criminal and Code of Student Behaviour charges are pending.

THANKFULLY IT WAS ONLY COORS

UAPS officers responded to a report of a male drinking in a HUB Mall stairwell on January 31 at 9 p.m. Officers identified a male, whom they had dealt with

on two previous occasions. His beer was poured out and the male was escorted off campus.

WHITE TOSSERS

On January 31 at 10 p.m., UAPS responded to a disturbance in progress in the main bus loop. Three males on an ETS bus had been observed harassing a female passenger by throwing items at her and making derogatory comments. Another male passenger tried to intervene on her behalf. The group was observed at the south end of HUB. Officers identified the three males, who admitted that they were part of the Aryan Brotherhood. Since the incident occurred on an ETS bus, transit security attended as well.

QUICK, PUT THE SOFA IN THE VAN

Staff at the Augustana campus contacted UAPS on February 2 at 11 a.m. to report that a sofa valued at more than \$700 had been stolen from the Forum basement. Staff noticed the disappearance of the sofa when doing an inventory check back on January 25.

A SERIES OF ILLEGAL '8' 065½

On February 2 at 3 p.m., a student reported a disturbance from the Chaplains Office on the lower level of HUB. A female had been seen moving furniture around in an office and loitering in the area. UAPS attended and did not locate the female. A short time later, at almost 4 p.m., a woman was observed in a vehicle east of HUB and had been asking parking staff for drugs. The female told UAPS officers the vehicle she was in was hers, but she could not produce registration or insurance. The vehicle actually belonged to a business owner in HUB who had left it unlocked. EPS attended the scene and escorted her to the hospital under the Mental Health Act.

IT'S MY CAR, I SWEAR

On February 2 at 7:30 p.m., UAPS were contacted by EPS to report an auto theft in progress in the U/N zone lot next to HUB. Officers attended the area along with EPS and determined the registered owner of the vehicle was having lock problems and was not stealing his own vehicle.

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U of A reclaims record for world’s largest dodgeball game

Butterdome filled with 2,012 green-and-gold-clad players, 1,006 dodgeballs last Friday

ANDREW JEFFREY
News Staff

With a total of 2,012 participants, the University of Alberta struck back Friday and regained the Guinness World Record for the largest dodgeball game — a record they originally set one year ago.

Last year, the U of A set the record with 1,198 participants. That mark stood until last September when the University of California, Irvine set a new record with 1,745 players. However, under the eyes of an official judge from Guinness flown in for the event, the U of A was able to regain the record Friday afternoon.

“We did it. We got our goal. We had people in the stands watching and everybody left with a big smile on their face,” said Rory Tighe, Students’ Union Vice President (Student Life) and organizer of the game. “The national pride definitely came out, the school spirit came out, and the whole community was here so it worked out perfectly.”

Spectators included Mayor Stephen Mandel, President Indira Samarasekera, various members of the community, and U of A alumni.

After the opening ceremonies, an epic clash between Team Green and Team Gold commenced, with students, alumni, and staff creating a red sky of 1,006 dodgeballs flying back and forth across the floor as a crowd cheered them on.

After 44 minutes and 17 seconds, the Gold Team came out victorious

and were able to outlast their green opponents and win for the second year in a row.

Tighe believes it shows off a vibrant U of A community.

The game was also a victory for Canada, as the competing record attempts seem to have led to an international feud of sorts between the U of A and UCI. The advertising campaign at UCI motivated students to play because they ‘couldn’t let those Canadians have the record.’

Tighe said he was surprised at the international competition the dodgeball record sparked.

“They tried a few times to break the record and UC Irvine finally succeeded and within months we’re smashing that. So I’d like to see their retort after this.”

These games may turn into an annual event due to the incredible popularity, and some participants are still hoping that another school will respond to their defeat and continue the feud.

“We thought [2,012] was definitely an achievable number [...] and also it doesn’t blow out the record as much as we possibly could, which would maybe be encouraging a bit of competition — giving the Americans a bone,” Tighe said.

The university can only wait and see how UCI and the rest of the world reacts to the U of A’s accomplishment, as one member of the Gold Team, Lucas Stone, stated after the game.

“The ball’s in your court now, Irvine.”

Guinness adjudicator an ordinary guy who judges world records

JOHN KMECH
Editor-in-Chief

To witness a world record being broken is a rare event, something the average person would see maybe a handful of times in their life. For Carlos Martinez, it’s a way to pay the bills.

The 33-year-old Guinness World Records judge was in Edmonton last week to verify the U of A’s successful attempt at the largest dodgeball game.

Martinez said he’s been a judge for the international record-keeping agency for about three and a half years. But being a Guinness judge doesn’t consist of merely laying back and watching people attempt to form the world’s largest air guitar ensemble. With a globe-trotting schedule that has him travelling about once a week, judging the largest, smallest, fastest, and best in the world isn’t exactly a cushy job. But according to Martinez, being there when records topple makes it all worthwhile.

“I think that the best part is the chance to actually be witnessing history, all the time,” he said.

Originally from Spain, Martinez got his doctorate in psychology from the University of Valencia. But it was his interest in sports and sports factoids that ultimately led him on the path towards the Guinness record book.

“I was a sports psychologist and a sports manager. So I was always involved in the world of sports, mostly soccer, back in Europe. One thing led to another, because I was always interested in facts and statistics. So I thought Guinness World Records was the best



MATTHIRJI

place to be.”

While Martinez came into the job from one direction, he said there is no single path to becoming one of the judges.

“Everyone has a different story. Guinness World Records is always trying to find new people to become judges [...] We are normally always trying to find new people to work with us, so continuously, we post job offers in magazines, on websites. So we are continuously [getting] new people so we can expand.”

Guinness World Records was officially started in 1955, with the release of *The Guinness Book of Records*, the first edition of the famous series that would eventually earn the distinction of being the best-selling copyrighted book of all time. Martinez is one of only 25 Guinness judges in the world who work full-time administering

official world-record attempts. Prior to the dodgeball game at the U of A, Martinez was in Hollywood, observing a record attempt at the largest cuckoo clock that fell short.

After his brief stint in Edmonton, Martinez said he’d be heading back to New York the following day. However, he was excited about a possible ongoing rivalry building around the dodgeball record, if the University of California, Irvine takes the record back.

“This is a good story — the fact that you are getting the record back, and that it is starting a big competition. So it is likely that someone will try to break this record, but it looks like you are prepared to have more people [...] I know that this story doesn’t end here and that we’ll see more and more record attempts, and I’ll have the chance to come back to the U of A.”



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- iii. the number of instructional days in the Fall Semester would remain at sixty-three (63); and
- iv. the Fall Reading Week would not apply to certain faculties and programs as per the current Winter Reading Week?

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Competition funds student projects such as mobile app, documentary

ROSS VINCENT
News Staff

The Faculty of Arts is funding a University of Alberta graduate student's project to create a mobile phone application that would allow users to document and search locations of public art in Edmonton, such as murals, graffiti, and snow forts.

Cindy Couldwell was one of three graduate students to receive funding last week. The money is coming from the new Public Research Competition 2011, which challenged grad students to devise novel ways to convey the importance of arts research to the greater community. Each participant was given seven minutes to pitch their idea to a panel of judges made up of prominent local figures, with winners taking home \$1,500.

One winner was selected from fine arts, one from humanities, and one from social sciences. Each were awarded a \$500 scholarship and \$1,000 to carry out their proposal.

The winners — Couldwell in Design, Andrea Hasenbank in English & Film Studies, and Matt Levitt in Anthropology — have until December 2011 to follow through on their project and make a presentation on its success or failure.

Hasenbank plans to retrace the steps of the On-to-Ottawa Trek of 1935, a strike action protesting the dire conditions of federal unemployment relief camps in Western Canada. She intends to place markers at significant locations with assistance from local communities.

Levitt intends to film a documentary profiling mummers' plays — a style of seasonal folk play that comes from Britain but is becoming more popular in Edmonton — and how each community adapts it to their own culture.

All three winners were excited to get their work, and arts research in general, into the public eye.

"People forget what arts research is and the fact that it is already community-based," Hasenbank said. "We're at a public university; we're dealing with issues that matter to the public interest. Something like this [competition] is just a way of concretizing it."



SAM BROOKS

SHOW ME THE MONEY Levitt pitched his documentary idea for the competition.

The Public Research Competition is the first of its kind at the U of A. Heather Zwicker, associate dean of graduate studies for the Faculty of Arts and co-organizer of the competition, stressed the importance of bringing research from the faculty to the community.

"[The people] pay for this, and they get their money's worth, and they deserve to know that. The problem is that [arts researchers] are not very creative about how we might convey that message to everyday people who are not always interested in sitting through a 50-minute lecture," Zwicker said.

"I think that those traditional meth-

ods of talking and writing are things that we're good at and they are important, but people are not necessarily interested in participating."

Zwicker hopes that the competition becomes an annual event, pending the winners successfully implementing their ideas.

"We have to know that it's popular, we have to know that it's successful," Zwicker said. "We can't be throwing money after things that don't work. But at the same time, we absolutely want to support our students' creative ideas, and if this helps them think about better ways of explaining what they do to the world, then we're all for it."

U of A scholar wins poetry prize

ALEX MIGDAL
News Staff

A University of Alberta professor has been awarded the prestigious T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry.

Derek Walcott, a scholar in residence and the U of A's first Nobel laureate, was awarded the prize at a ceremony in England on January 24. His winning collection, *White Egrets* was one among 10 distinguished nominees shortlisted for the British prize. The award is one of the most coveted in poetry and includes £15,000 donated by Eliot's widow, Valerie Eliot.

It marks one of numerous awards bestowed upon Walcott throughout his illustrious career, including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992.

Bert Almon, a Professor Emeritus of creative writing at the U of A, taught a poetry master class with Walcott for the past two years. He was celebrating Walcott's birthday in the small Caribbean island of St. Lucia when they found out the news.

"[His partner] said, 'Derek, there's a wonderful new present for you in the living room,'" Almon explained. "When we got in the living room, she said, 'We just got a phone call from London saying you've won the T.S. Eliot Prize.'"

"He's in touch with the very best of world poetry, but he's also very rooted in the knowledge of the language and customs of this little island."

BERT ALMON
U OF A PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Despite *White Egrets'* acclaim, Almon said that Walcott did not expect to win the award.

"He was astounded," Almon said. "It was a very distinguished shortlist.

The judging committee noted he's 81 years old [and] still doing very pioneering and exciting work."

Anne Stevenson, chair of the jury, hailed the collection as "a moving, risk-taking, and technically flawless book by a great poet."

Almon agrees that Walcott's collection is fully deserving of the award.

"It's an absolutely superb book," he said. "Very mature and wise, very beautifully written."

He explained that the poems in *White Egrets* are the "recollections of a lifetime," mainly focusing on ageing and dying, while set amidst the backdrop of Walcott's native St. Lucia.

"He's in touch with the very best of world poetry, but he's also very rooted in the knowledge of the language and customs of this little island. It's a very rich type of collection."

Walcott will conclude his three-year term as scholar in residence at the U of A next September with a six-week poetry master class. He also has a spring appointment as Professor of Poetry at the University of Essex.

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Sex Fest aims to increase STI, sexual health awareness

KAITLYN GRANT
News Writer

The University of Alberta’s Health Centre is trying to raise awareness about the outbreak of syphilis in Alberta with Sex Fest, an information campaign running on the main floor of SUB.

The University Health Centre (UHC) is working in conjunction with Voices for Choices and the Student International Health Association to raise awareness of both the syphilis outbreak and sexual health at the two-day fair. The number of syphilis cases in Alberta has increased considerably in the past decade and while the new syphilis cases do not show a trend towards young people, STIs in general are more common in younger, sexually active age groups, according to the UHC.

“Sex Fest takes place on February 15 and 16 on main floor SUB. It will involve a number of informational booths and activities aimed at supporting students to ‘own their sexual health.’ Information about STIs, contraception, and healthy sexuality will be discussed in workshops that will occur over the two days,” explained Jameela Murji, the health education team leader for UHC.

The open nature of Sex Fest could help reduce the stigma associated with STIs. Dr. Ameeta Singh, a professor of infectious diseases at the U of A who works with the Edmonton STI Clinic, said part of the problem is that discussion about STIs is shrouded in



DAN MCKECHNIE

judgment, which prevents people from talking about them.

“It’s been an issue since the start of time. [...] You can’t tell if someone has an STI or not. It’s very simple to get tested [...] the only way to know if you have an STI is to be tested.”

However, STI cases have increased drastically because of the change in types of relationships; today, people are likely to have more than one sexual partner. Accordingly, Singh said the only way to prevent an STI is to completely abstain.

“Two of the most common, reportable STIs, chlamydia and gonorrhea, are in young people. Three-quarters of these cases are under 25. Cases do occur in all ages, but are highest in young people.”

Syphilis is unique because the outbreak is found across all age groups.

Singh said students could be at more of a risk to get an STI, but there is no direct link between the syphilis outbreak in Alberta and the average university student.

The Edmonton STI Clinic hopes that by raising awareness throughout the province of the syphilis outbreak, a comprehensive action plan could be implemented including small STI clinics in Jasper and Banff. Singh expressed high hopes for motivating that change through public awareness on these matters.

“We do need public support to take action on this issue. Public support, including students, is important.”

Symptoms of syphilis are similar to the flu in the early stages, but if it is not treated quickly the infection can lead to brain, heart, or bone damage, or even death.

post-secondary digest

Compiled by Dan Watson

NO MORE RADIO FOR RYERSON

The Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission announced last week that Ryerson University’s campus radio station, CKLN, would lose its license to broadcast — a decision the station’s board says it plans to appeal.

The CRTC cited non-compliance with its broadcasting standards and claimed CKLN’s board of governors lacked balanced representation in a statement released January 28. CKLN also failed to produce a program log, or on-air tapes — standard conditions for holding a CRTC license to broadcast.

The station discussed its options for appealing the decision at an annual general meeting last week.

SAVE THE MONKEYS

Animal testing at the University of British Columbia has some people upset, including the organization STOP UBC Animal Research, which held protests on January 30 outside the Vancouver Art Gallery. Four of the protesters at the event donned monkey costumes and prison uniforms to assert their opposition to a UBC Parkinson’s Disease research project that involves testing on monkeys. The project has researchers inject the compound Lactacystin into the monkeys to test how Parkinson’s progresses in the animals. The injections cause Parkinson-like symptoms in the monkeys.

STOP has been raising money in hopes of buying the monkeys from UBC, though the university’s Vice

President (Research) voiced his support for the project and its goal of furthering Parkinson’s research. He said the project has yet to receive approval from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and that it will not begin until sometime after this April.

STRIKE LOOMS AT BROCK

Part-time instructors, teaching assistants, and other staff at Brock University in St. Catherine’s, Ont. voted 80 per cent in favour of a strike in a vote held last week. The vote indicates that a strike could become a reality by mid-February, stalling classes across the university.

The union and Brock have been in negotiations since April of last year, and no contract has been in place since June. While negotiations are still in progress, the union is asking for more working hours, guarantees that seminars will not be eliminated, higher wages, and better benefits. The university and the union have not yet set deadlines for negotiations, which could lead to a strike if the deadline is not met.

ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY ISOTOPES

Natural Resources Canada granted a total of \$14 million to projects at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Winnipeg to further research on methods for producing medical isotopes in a more environmentally friendly way. Current methods produce radioactive waste.

Medical isotopes are used for a variety of diagnostic processes, such as detecting cancers and diseases of the heart. While the U of S project leader indicated their facilities would take longer to be active, the U of W is expecting its research facilities to be operational and in production as soon as next year.

—with files from the Canadian University Press

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on General Faculties Council (GFC) Standing Committees, Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2011. Undergraduate and graduate students (as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times (normally monthly)
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC’s senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate at-large	2:00 pm/twice monthly, Alternating Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate at-large	9:00 am/3 rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO students at-large (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am/4 th Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate at-large	2:00 pm/1 st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate at-large	1:30 pm/4 th Thursday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates at-large	2:00 pm/2 nd Tuesday
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, The Provost’s Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate at-large	Normally three times a year (October, March and June)
GFC ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals and applicant appeals regarding disciplinary decisions made under the Code of Student Behaviour or Code of Applicant Behaviour.	AAC: ONE undergraduate & TWO graduates UAB: FIVE undergraduates To allow for overlapping student terms, it is desirable for applicants to be able to serve 2 year terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will normally participate in 3 to 4 hearings per year.Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday.Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours. Students should have flexible evening schedules two nights a week (including summer months).
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate who must be members of GFC at the time of election	Afternoons/normally 3 rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca> or in Room 3-20 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to University Governance by **Monday, March 7, 2011**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Marlene Lewis, Coordinator to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the **GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** and **GFC NOMINATING COMMITTEE** for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member for the 2011-12 academic year. Expressions of interest for this position should be directed to Mr Garry Bodnar (garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca), Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.

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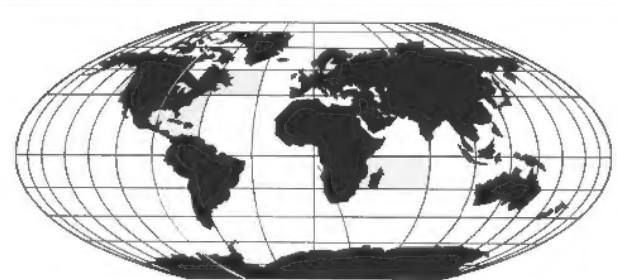
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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PAUL SWANSON

Research shows perception of chronic back pain can affect recovery time

SARA KOTOW
News Writer

Results from a study by University of Alberta researchers have shown that people who believe they have chronic back pain are more likely to have a longer recovery time.

Two researchers from the Faculty of Rehabilitation, Doug Gross and Michele Crites-Battie, looked at injured employees going into a rehabilitation centre run by the Workers Compensation Board. They found that those who suffered from back pain were most likely to have negative expectations on their rate of recovery, in part because they believed that the back pain was chronic.

The injury groups they studied were back pain, strains and sprains, fractures, dislocations, amputations, and repetitive strain.

"Back pain makes up the biggest category of injured workers, making it the most problematic and expensive

group," Gross said. "Expectations were worse for people with back pain than any of the other groups. People were less positive about back pain then they were about amputations. That tells us something."

Gross explained that back pain is something many people don't ever think will get better because they don't understand what causes it or how they can get rid of it.

"People go to a doctor thinking they will get a pill that will take their pain away and that they will be cured," Gross said. "They view chronic back pain as a really nasty condition that you don't want to get and should be afraid of."

"What needs to change is people thinking of back pain as a disabling condition that's going to last for the rest of their life. They think something inside of them is broken, or degenerating, when really that's not it."

He said that if people think they are never going to get better, that is going

to affect their expectations of recovery.

"That's where people's expectations and what they believe about their pain comes into play. If they think their spine is degrading and they're never going to get better, they're going to be less likely to do the things that will help them get better," he said.

Gross said that the old cure for back pain — bed rest — is actually the worst thing to do. The best way to improve is to stay as active as possible and keep up normal activities.

Most causes of back pain are non-specific, with only 10 to 15 per cent of cases having an identifiable cause.

"Compression fracture, a bulging disk pinching a nerve — those we can't diagnose. Most of the time we can't narrow it down to a specific tissue, but we do know it will go away," Gross said. "Just about everyone gets back pain and most of the time it goes away within a couple weeks."

"We can't cure back pain, but we can change what people think about it."

Antarctic expedition unearths rare fossils

HAYLEY DUNNING
News Staff

An expedition to Antarctica has finally unearthed a unique dinosaur species, that though first discovered more than 20 years ago, remained buried until now.

University of Alberta paleontologist Phil Currie has just returned from the Trans-Antarctic Mountains, straddling the Antarctic Circle, where he says the creature, a unique meat-eating dinosaur Cryolophosaurus, lived for half the year in total darkness.

The skeleton is the highest dinosaur specimen in the world; the altitude and the cold made for a tough expedition.

"We were camped on a glacier, high up in the mountains [at] about 2,000 metres above sea level. The valley we were working in was 4,000 metres above sea level, and the upshot of this is we had to use a helicopter to get up and down. We had to go through training courses [and] for the first couple of days, we had to take these pills that help your blood assimilate

oxygen better," Currie said.

The skeleton of the unique meat-eating dinosaur Cryolophosaurus was first discovered in 1990, but only a third of it could be recovered before funding dried up. The hard rocks of Mount Kirkpatrick make excavation a costly business, and it wasn't until this winter that the rest of the skeleton was finally removed. While the specimen is the first to be named from Antarctica, the site at Mount Kirkpatrick hints at a richness of new species.

"In the process of excavating the specimen we found another one underneath, [and] 30 or 40 metres away we found another dinosaur. One was probably a long-necked dinosaur, a diplodocus type, but it's a very primitive version of them. The other one is a smaller version of a duck-billed dinosaur like we would find here in Alberta," Currie said.

The Cryolophosaurus was a smaller carnivore similar to the T. Rex, but with a crest running across the skull rather than front-to-back as in all other species with a crest. According

to Currie, the crest was most likely used in attracting a mate.

"We know dinosaurs [were] very visual animals. They rely very heavily on frills, horns, and crests. Birds came directly from dinosaurs, and birds use colour heavily, so presumably dinosaurs not only had all these weird frills and things, but they also had colours."

Currie believes that the relation between birds and dinosaurs supports the recent conclusion by a group of paleontologists, including U of A researcher Larry Heaman, that all dinosaurs didn't die out in one major meteorite strike.

"We know that there's very ancient animals still alive today. You end up with these small little pockets where certain things survive. Well, why not dinosaurs? Why should they have been universally crushed? Dinosaurs are still very dominant — in a way they are more dominant than we are — and that's because birds are the descendants of dinosaurs. In a way, dinosaurs did not die out at all and they still are very successful."

GATEWAY NEWS

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“Eureka moments” push U of A researcher to top publishing spot

RYAN BROMSGROVE
News Staff

A University of Alberta professor was recently named the seventh most prolific author in the journal *Biochemistry*, for research in a field that he noted was scorned just 50 years ago as the work of “impure chemists.”

Brian Sykes, a U of A biochemistry researcher, began his 45-year career near the birth of the field and has been a prolific author for *Biochemistry*. Though he originally expected to be a chemical physicist, he instead moved into the expanding biochemistry field. Sykes has travelled a twisted but exciting path to arrive at his current research, studying cardiovascular protein structure with the use of high-field nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

With a career characterized by following his nose and letting his curiosity carry him forward, the news of *Biochemistry*'s recognition of his large volume of published work came as a surprise.

“*Biochemistry*'s obviously a journal [I've] published in quite a bit over the years. It's a journal that started 50 years ago and corresponds to sort of the start of my research career,” he said. “But I didn't know that [I was] number seven. It turned out to be quite surprising.”

One particular area of his research has been trying to understand the central regulatory protein in skeletal muscle. His team of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows is also moving toward



KAITLYN MENARD

understanding how drugs can bind to these molecules, and change, or inhibit these proteins.

“Right now, our focus is on cardiovascular proteins, so that would be proteins of your heart in this case. How do they function? How are they regulated? How might drugs bind to them to make them better or worse?” he said. “We're not MDs, we're not the hospital people, we're not at the bedside, but we look at the details of how these proteins interact with each other, how they function, on a chemical and a molecular level.”

Sykes said that although his research may sound abstract and without immediate application, it can speak to the unpredictable nature of research.

“All the major discoveries are made by people following their noses. [William] Shockley invents the transistor. Was he thinking of the Silicon Valley? Was he thinking of computers?

Was he thinking of Facebook? No — he was playing around,” Sykes said.

Sykes and his team press on with their daily work in the labs, sometimes during evenings and weekends, performing experiments and running calculations. But the work is slow day-to-day, although he says there are “eureka moments along the way.”

“It's amazing what you do discover when you view it over the lifetime of a project. It's amazing how it does develop when you view it from that standpoint, but you don't discover something every day,” he said. “You're following what seems to be interesting, and what excites you. We work together, and we have a good time trying to figure out what's going on.”

“Governments, and people, want you to have directed research, but no one of us can pick the winner. No one of us can pick what's going to be useful in the future.”

“Want to know what Michael Ross demonstrated his dinosaur with?”

CRAIG TURNER
BOG representative

—on what goes on during meetings of the Council Administration Committee

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Aaron Yeo

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

Recently, Council went back to the ol' faithfully disgusting L'Express wraps. But there were cookies. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.

QUESTION PERIOD

When asked about the upcoming spring federal elections, Vice President (External) Aden Murphy reported that students in general have little leverage in making sure student interests are being looked after. Murphy pointed to campus apathy resulting in few votes coming from students, and aims to remedy that by getting the university population more engaged. He also pointed out that provincial elections are of a higher priority to the Students' Union, as postsecondary education is not as affected by federal legislation.

Murphy was also asked about the

necessity of two separate lobby groups for Alberta undergraduate students, such as the Council of Alberta University Students and Alberta Students' Executive Council. He responded by explaining the history and differences between the two organizations and noted it is more effective for them to work separately on their own agendas, but also to combine efforts for bigger campaigns.

Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe fielded several questions regarding the alcohol policy on campus, and reported that a committee is in the works and is communicating with the Lister Hall Students' Association and Residence Services. He announced that a town hall will be held in March to take students' opinions into consideration.

Tighe fielded questions about the recent decision to implement alcohol-free and quiet floors in Lister. He responded by saying that the SU's role is to support the Lister Hall Students' Association in their negotiations with Residence Services, and that they are not taking a stance for or against the decision at this time.

THE LONE BILL

Council passed Bill 27 in first reading, a policy on implementing and maintaining non-instructional fees. This will ensure students have more representation and more control over the situation when being faced with mandatory non-instructional fees.

You've seen them on campus.

You may have even been screamed at one on a Friday night after one too many appletinis and been escorted back to your room in Lister.

But how does the University of Alberta Protective Services keep you safe? The Gateway sent two reporters to check out how UAPS officers do their job.

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Newly implemented policy helping at-risk individuals

SOPHIE WENSEL
News Writer

It's easy to feel like a number in a university community of almost 40,000, but the new Helping Individuals At Risk (HIAR) program is focusing on making links for individuals who are in need of a support system.

The proactive program, housed under the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, aims to identify and help at-risk individuals before they harm themselves or others and before academic, work, and personal areas are affected.

"If students are seeing behaviours in a friend, if they're seeing a dramatic downturn, or they have a friend who's made a suicidal comment or joke and they don't know what to do, there are lots of resources they can turn to and this would be another one," said HIAR Coordinator Kris Fowler.

Fowler is the direct contact for students and is open to all concerns of at-risk behavior. She said that she's been receiving two to three reports per week, and is happy with how the program is working since its implementation.

"I'm hoping that as the program builds momentum, students will realize there's nothing wrong with phoning, and that it's a good option," Fowler said.

Examples of at-risk behaviour encompass "words or conduct that, while not indicative of a clear or immediate threat, give rise to a reasonable apprehension that an individual may be at risk of harming themselves or others in the future."

"This is a very vague term because the U of A has so many people that provide that kind of service. [Students] could contact their residence co-ordinator, they could contact student services, they could contact the student advisor in their department or faculty. Whoever they see as a helping person,



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KAPIL VACHAR

and then that person will contact me," she said.

The HIAR program was implemented in September 2010 after two years of consultation and development.

"Very consciously, the program was housed under the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights," Fowler emphasized. "This is a confidential place where people can share their concerns and we will look out for their best interests."

Universities throughout North America are implementing similar policies. A study of the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007 brought forward concerns about communication on campus, especially in large institutions.

"That university was also a large university and there were many people on campus who were concerned about the individual at Virginia Tech, but people weren't able to talk to each other," Fowler said. "One of the major recommendations out of that report was that universities have a centralized location

where people can make reports, so that incidents that look like they're single incidents can be identified as being connected a lot sooner."

University members can report individuals at risk to the HIAR coordinator, a faculty member, a chair or associate dean, vice-president, or anyone at University Student Services. Fowler stressed that the goal of reporting is not disciplinary.

"There's no discipline involved with this process at all; we're not trying to monitor people just to see what's going on. That's not our focus at all."

Patterns and dramatic changes in conduct are key to identifying at-risk behaviour.

"If this is someone who lived on your floor who is fairly outgoing, and suddenly they're very reserved and isolated and they're not going to class anymore. Or they're missing assignments [...] It's that dramatic change and many changes that are the key thing to look for."

More students accessing mental health services

SARAH PETZ
The Manitoban (University of Manitoba)

WINNIPEG (CUP) — While more university students are coming into campus health centres with greater mental health challenges than in the past, Don Stewart says it may not be a negative sign.

The director of the counselling centre at the University of Manitoba said the centre sees between 800–1,000 students each year. While that number has remained fairly stable, Stewart explained that students are coming to the centre with more serious mental health issues that sometimes need more frequent, specialized contact.

"We're also seeing students who are perhaps more willing to access counselling and therapeutic resources than years gone by," said Stewart, who believes this may be due to decreased stigma around seeking counselling than in the past.

Connie Krahenbil, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Manitoba division, felt that mental health agencies have done a better job in recent years of debunking the stigma around mental health.

"I find youth more generally accepting [...] and more open about talking about some of the challenges that they're facing," said Krahenbil.

According to Statistics Canada, approximately one in five Canadians aged 15–24 surveyed showed symptoms of a mental health issues, though only 32 per cent of Canadians who experienced problems associated with mental illness sought out professional help.

"If you look at Canada, that's like six million people and only 30 per cent of them will reach out for help," said Krahenbil.

"That's really unfortunate, so it's really good to see, even though it could be seen as, 'Oh my goodness, there's more people.' I don't really think that's the case. I think more people are recognizing they need to get help."

A recent Canada-U.S. study found that approximately 25 per cent of university students coming through campus health-care centres showed symptoms of depression. Elizabeth Saewyc, lead investigator of the study and a nursing professor at the University of British Columbia, said the study was a "snapshot in time" of the students that come through campus health centres for treatment of anything from a sports injury to migraine headache.

She said the results of the study may not necessarily mean that more students are struggling with mental health issues.

"It could be that it's always been that many students, we just haven't had the opportunity to measure it to see that it's that many students," said Saewyc. "That said, I think that clearly what this shows is that a fair number of our students on campuses are struggling with stress and challenges in their lives that may be contributing to possible depression."

An important thing to remember when analyzing mental health issues in students is that the transition can be very difficult for some students, according to Saewyc.

"For a lot of people, this is a major change in terms of leaving home, sometimes even leaving the same place where you grew up," said Saewyc. "If you don't know all the different ways you can cope, it certainly can contribute to challenges adjusting and being able to cope with things."

Lynn Smith, executive director of student services and student affairs at the University of Manitoba, said there is a wait list for students looking to be assigned a counsellor to see on a regular basis, but "a student who comes in and needs to be seen right away will be seen right away."

"There's nobody in dire need who can't see a counsellor [...] we want to be able to provide appropriate and timely service to students," she said.

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U of A admin's blog destined for mediocrity

IN THEIR LATEST ATTEMPT TO JUMP ON THE social media bandwagon, the U of A launched an official blog last week, called Colloquy@UAlberta, which can be found at ualbertablog.ca. According to its inaugural post, penned by none other than Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, the new online presence is meant to facilitate "an interactive forum for dialogue within the University of Alberta community." Apparently, the blog will provide the university's administration with a place from which to disseminate relevant information, as well as field questions and concerns from members of the university community. Unfortunately, Colloquy doesn't seem to be set up to do either of these things adequately.

Amrhein follows up his introduction to the blog with a disclaimer that reads, "those of you who know me know that I am not particularly adept at social media, so I won't promise to be the most frequent of contributors."

Well, that might just be a little bit of an issue.

Although Amrhein promises that he will still "provide answers to questions or issues that arise," the future of the university's latest attempt at offering accessibility is already looking questionable. The website is supposed to offer students and faculty an opportunity to engage with our school's biggest decision-makers, but if they're starting out by offering up excuses for their lack of participation, the initiative might as well be dead already. It's difficult to make something interactive without, you know, the actual interactivity part of the deal.

So far, the only other posts in the week-old blog are a few words from Dean of Students Frank Robinson about how last Friday's dodgeball game was awesome and a longer offering from the Associate Vice President (Information Technology) Jonathan Schaeffer regarding some of the technology development projects the university is working on. To the site's credit, the latter entry is informative, personal, and — importantly — contains promises from Schaeffer to continue providing updates in the future.

The blog is an attempt to better accommodate the needs of the university community. But only time will tell if this is something anyone will actually find useful, or if the administration will allow it to become a forum for open dialogue and answering the complaints of angry profs. At the moment, the project seems unfortunately confused about what its purpose should be. Even the name "Colloquy" — meaning "a formal conversation" or "a serious discussion" — is a bit off; it's an example of the university's attempt to force together the rigidity of academia with the comparable ease of the internet.

Social media, when used properly, has the power to reach an enormous audience, providing information and garnering instant feedback. It is not, however, a magical tool that will open up, in Amrhein's words, a "spirited, collegial debate" within the U of A community without any effort from those on the other side of the conversation. The blog might, at the very least, provide a decent platform for more lengthy discussion and debate about university issues. But as one online commenter pointed out, it isn't really set up to properly accommodate this at the moment. The only means of posting your thoughts are through the commenting system, so you're left with the choice of either waiting for a U of A administrator to post something relevant to what you want to discuss, or throwing your questions in amongst a long chain of other confusing and unrelated opinions.

Colloquy is a good idea in theory — given the issues the university is currently facing, better communication is a necessity between the administration, profs, and students. But so far, the U of A admin hasn't quite gotten it right. A lesson in new media seems to be in order — and the university is sure to get it, as they've now stepped right into the treacherous world of anonymous online commenting. It might be tough to handle, but with any luck, the university might even learn something.

MADLINE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A VALENTINE'S DAY TRADITION



ROSS VINCENT

from THE web

New designated floors in Lister a response to student demand

RE: ("Lister to implement alcohol-free floors," Simon Yackulic, February 2)

I think this is a great idea. I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph where they had several special floors or areas. Some of these were quiet areas, some were dry areas, and other were learning groups where first year students from a particular program (i.e. engineering) were grouped together with a peer helper who was an older student in the same program.

My first two years at Guelph I was in a quiet area, since I'm the type of person who tends to go to bed early and get up early — so I hated floors where there was tons of noise late into the evening. As a scholarship student, I also appreciated the quiet so I could study in my room and not have to go to the library or the engineering building to study.

In my third year, I acted as a peer helper for the engineering group in residence, and that was a blast. It was great working with the new first-year engineering students and helping them adapt to life on campus.

Clearly there is a demand for quiet floors in Lister, based on the surveys that were done, so I think this is a

fabulous idea. If the University of Alberta wants to look for more ways to improve the residence experience, I would suggest they look at the University of Guelph. They have a fabulous residence program that caters to many different types of students and their wants/desires/needs.

"GRAD STUDENT"
Via Internet

Dry and quiet floors won't do any favours for Lister's environment

While I think this announcement alone makes sense, in the greater context I have to disagree with it because of the precedent it sets. This announcement is just following the continuing trend of more and more freedoms being taken away from Lister residents.

I know this from personal experience, and an older sibling's experience who lived in Lister two years before me. The difference in rules and enforcement changed drastically, and in my opinion, and what seems to be popular opinion among former floormates, the changes detracted from the overall experience. Why fix what isn't broken? As far as I'm aware, demand for spots in Lister is as high as ever. I'm in my last year of university and I can personally say all of my best friends are students I met in Lister, in which a social life was forced upon me (I'm glad it was). Had I lived on a quiet

floor this would not be the case. Ask students who have lived in both classic Lister and Schaeffer (a more quiet residence) which experience was better and I guarantee you the majority say Lister.

It's sad to see, but this is just one more step towards a dry residence, which I'm expecting Lister will be in less than 10 years at the pace it's going.

"FORMER RESIDENT"
Via Internet

People are leaving Lister because it's a terrible place to live

Has Residence Services ever considered that people might be leaving because it is an absolutely disgusting environment to live in? For example, consider when cleaning decides to shampoo the carpets, the floor smells absolutely disgusting for the following days. Why? Possibly because the carpets are caked with vomit, piss, beer, food, and probably other bodily fluids, from the past 60 years.

Those carpets most likely have thousands of diseases, and the Lister environment is probably the most unhealthy, filthy, prone-to-illness place anyone could ever live in. Why do they think people call it "Piss-ter"? After three years of living in Lister, it's pretty obvious that many new residents move out in the first semester. This could be due to many reasons: people on

the floor click really easily, whereas this person did not fit in. In the first semester, first years and everyone in general goes nuts with partying (especially in the first week and month) because they don't know anyone, so it allows an easier way for them to befriend people. This could be scaring new residents because they think that Lister is like that non-stop, 24/7.

Just some things for them to think about.

"UNDERGRAD"
Via Internet

Lister should cater to the needs of all students

RE: ("Lister to implement alcohol-free floors," Simon Yackulic, February 2)

Sounds like a good idea to me. Lister should be for all students, including those who need or want an environment where they can study in peace and be guaranteed a good night's rest. The SA needs to accept that many students do not want to live in the environment that currently exists on some floors. Not all students come to the U of A to drink and party, and Lister is often their only option for a place to live.

My only concern would be pressure from parents pushing students onto floors that they won't be happy with. Some parents may insist that their child request a quiet floor or alcohol free one, and that may be

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 12



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Lister students need to face the music and accept floor changes



MATT
MEUSE

"The Lister lifer brigade is missing out [...], choosing instead to put off that particular part of growing up so they can play dodgeball. Lister culture is insular to the point of incest, existing in its own self-sustaining social bubble that avoids contact with the outside world as much as possible."

We've all heard that university is a time of learning and personal growth, but after doing my time in Lister, I'm calling bullshit.

Recently, Residence Services announced they will be implementing quiet and alcohol-free floors next year. The resulting cries of outrage have highlighted one of the more toxic aspects of the Lister experience: its tendency to hinder the social development and maturation of its residents. Residence Services should be tailoring its policies to ensure the best possible experience for new residents, not catering to the whims of the overgrown children who, for some reason, keep coming back.

First, let's get one thing out of the way. One alcohol-free floor and one quiet floor in an eleven-floor building isn't exactly a complete overhaul of the system, and to suggest that this hints at some insidious plan for a dry Lister is both paranoid and ludicrous. There's simply no reason for them to implement a policy from which they stand to gain nothing, particularly something as socially unpopular and utterly impossible to enforce as alcohol prohibition. It's the kind of ridiculous logic that people use to argue that socialized medicine leads to communism, or that gay marriage leads to bestiality, and it's equally incorrect.

Some students currently living in the residence have complained that these conversions will destroy the "floor culture" of the target floors should residents wish to return next year.

While I understand many residents have met some of their closest friends in Lister, the very fact that people return year after year is actually at odds with what happens at other postsecondary residences. At most other universities, first-year students live in the dorms, with the expectation that they — and probably some of their friends from the dorms — will move off-campus the following

year into a house or apartment. This is a healthy expectation; while living in dorms is certainly a good first step towards cutting the apron strings, having your own place brings with it an entirely new set of responsibilities and freedoms to learn how to deal with.

The Lister lifer brigade is missing out on this, choosing instead to put off that particular part of growing up so they can play dodgeball. Lister culture is insular to the point of incest, existing in its own self-sustaining social bubble that avoids contact with the outside world as much as possible. The result is the stifling of social development and the encouragement of immaturity as these lady- and man-children try to delay their entry into the real world as long as they can.

Ultimately, it's a classic example of diminishing returns: the longer you

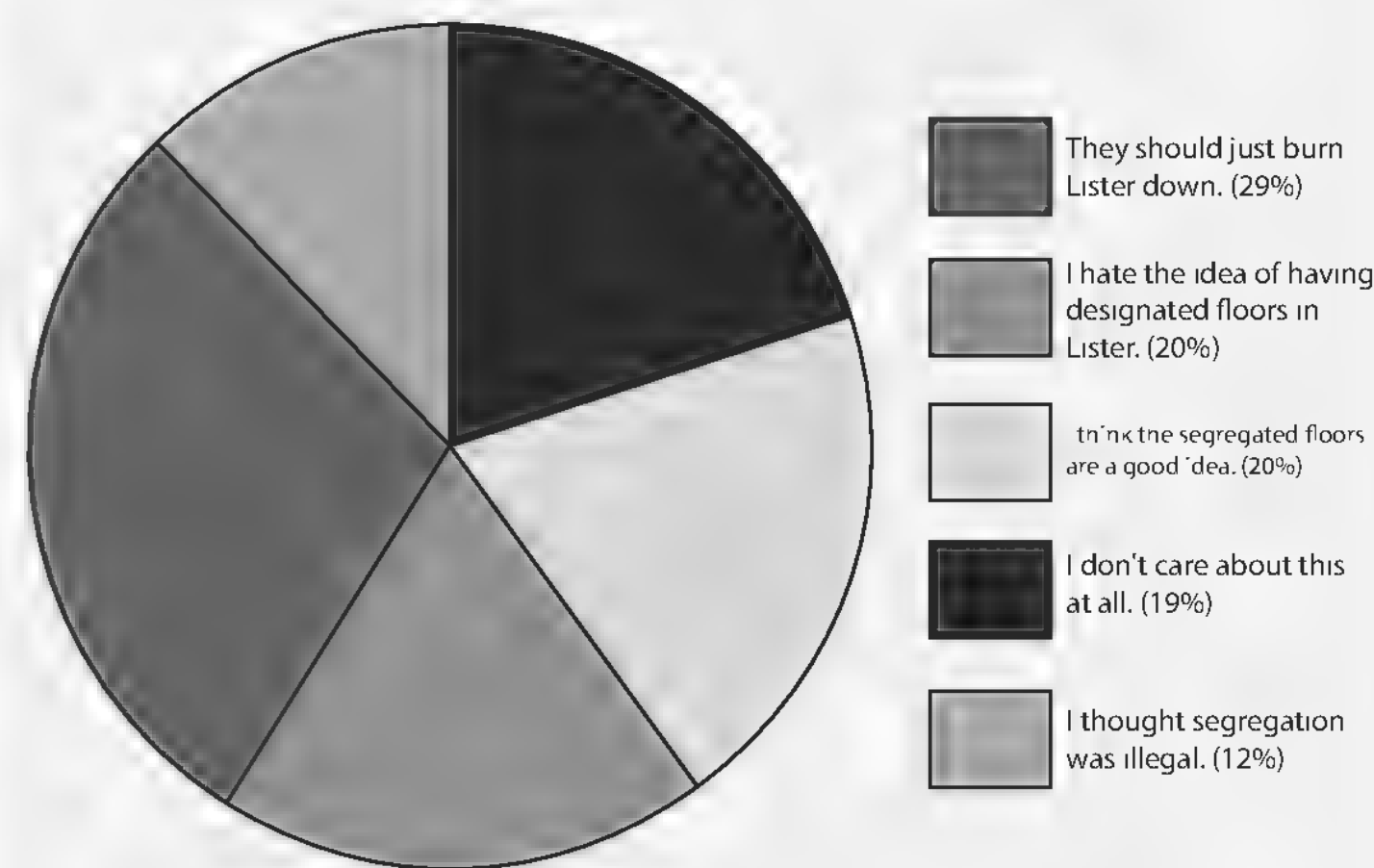
stay, the less valuable the experience becomes. The priority of Residence Services, then, should be the experience of new Lister residents, not the cliques of returning floor "families." These new quiet and alcohol-free floor designations address a concern that clearly exists — 51 per cent of Listerites polled in a Residence Services survey of 302 people would choose to live on a quiet floor, and 19 per cent would prefer an alcohol-free floor — so Residence Services should proceed with their implementation.

If the bonds between you and your floormates are really as profound as you say, then your displacement to another floor or, heaven forbid, a place off-campus should not be a major hurdle to your continued association.

And if it is, you need to grow the fuck up.

readerpoll

"What do you think about the potential changes to Lister floors?"



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

"What are your plans for this Valentine's Day?"

vote online at thegatewayonline.ca

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11
detrimental to the experience that child wants to have in Lister.

"MARK"
Via Internet

I-Week doesn't represent all nations

RE: ("Boyden opens I-Week discussing migration," Hayley Dunning, February 1)

Not to sound like a wet blanket, but what's with the lack of representation from Europe? Look in the index of the International Week program; there's a section called Europe and Central Asia and there are only four events, all of which sound great, but two of them are more broadly global than European. No events about the Armenian Genocide, Ukrainian Genocide, the apparent failure of multiculturalism in Germany, national identity crises abound within the European Union, etc. — why? It also seems like some events are only quasi-

related to the mandate of International Week, if even that.

"DEFINE INTERNATIONAL"
Via Internet

Bell changes would cut access for heavy internet users

RE: ("Bell shamelessly trying to curb Net competition," Jordan Ching, February 3)

The users who are most apt to see network congestion are those who use it the most, the heavy users, not the light users. Just like the drivers who are most apt to see traffic congestion are those who spend the most time on the road; the taxi drivers, not the Sunday drivers. I'm a heavy user and I have never seen any network congestion whatsoever. Not when I had Videotron Unlimited (remember this?), not now that I have Teksavvy dual dry-loop DSL with M_PPP to bypass the Bell throttle.

Guess when I saw any kind of network

slow down? When I didn't have M_PPP and Bell throttled my line.

Not only is there no apparent network congestion when I use my full bandwidth and download bogs of GB, but when I did see some network slow downs, it was arbitrary, not inherent. So the whole network congestion argument is bullshit.

If the net is like the road for the driver, then this road appears deserted when I drive on it. And I drive on it like a maniac on amphetamines: all day and all night.

MARTIN LEVAC
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered to SUB 3-04. The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study to be considered for publication.

Straight edge? Live a little, loser



RYAN
BROMSGROVE

What straight edge kids really need is a shot of whiskey, a line of coke, and a good fuck.

If you've lived a blessed life, away from contact with the strange and overly dramatic world of music-related subcultures, you may never have heard of straight edge. It began in the '70s as a protest against the hardcore punk scene of the time. They rejected hedonism, drinking, and drugs, with many followers also rejecting promiscuous sex. Still more have tried to incorporate vegetarianism, veganism, and animal rights. Almost as if they realized how much they personified the opposite of "badass," a few others brought in the rather mismatched advocacy of violence.

The symbol of the subculture is a black X drawn across both hands, which arose out of an incident where some band was too young to play at their gig because there was alcohol around. They compromised with a big X drawn on their hands to ensure they weren't served, and now people of all ages wear it proudly in solidarity.

Most of you have made it to university, and have more or less grown

out of such teenage obsessions with being a part of this group or that. I salute you fine people. Learning to succeed on your own merits rather than those borrowed from a social group is an important step we must all take — though as an aside, physics majors are nevertheless demonstrably superior to all other undergrads.

There are a few stragglers still clinging to their comfortable subculture memberships. The occasional goth still strolls through SUB, chains a-jangling. They may look out of place, but it's not a big deal. However, if you're still counting yourself as straight edge at this point, you're kind of irredeemable. There is absolutely nothing lamer than thinking it's cool to refuse to do fun things.

And before you say it, I've heard that poor excuse, "I can have a good time without alcohol." That self-satisfied smug tone you say it with doesn't help you, either.

Valentine's Day is coming up, so what does that leave you with? Home cooking a delicious meal with no meat, but all heart? Taking your partner out to see a movie or a play, or buying an elegant gift? Fuck that. Nothing says "I love you" like a thick steak, shooting up heroin, and a night

of outrageous fucking with a girl you just met.

And before you say it, I've heard that poor excuse: "I can have a good time without alcohol." That self-satisfied smug tone you say it with doesn't help you, either. I, too, can have a good time without getting drunk, but I can have an even better time with three bottles of Jack Daniels. The secret, my misguided friends, can be summed up with one word: moderation.

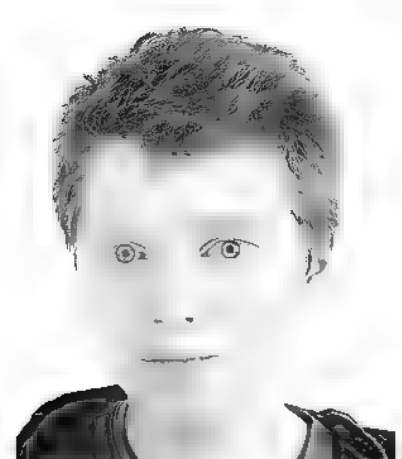
Naturally, you don't want to be puking your guts out every morning. Getting so drunk that a cab to Steel Wheels sounds like a good idea is not something you should do every night. Spending the evening before an exam so high you're seeing the Milky Way from the outside is also a definite recipe for extreme failure.

But doing that sort of thing once in a while, maybe even "sometimes," is the only way to keep away the horrible feeling that one day, you and everyone you love will all be dead and the sun will scorch the Earth to an inhabitable crisp. Oh, and don't forget, eventually even the very atoms that make up our bodies and everything else will decay, leaving absolutely no record that anything ever happened anywhere ever.

In that context, your decision to not have a drink now and then certainly seems more than just a little self-important.

So, once you get over the paralyzing shame that I've inflicted upon you, get over yourself and have some fun.

Valentine's: how to survive the holiday



BRUCE
CINNAMON

As a single man, surrounded by friends who are happily engaging themselves in medium- to long-term relationships, it is with extreme enthusiasm that I await that most widely hated of holidays, Valentine's Day. Many of my fellow singles despise this day, for reasons that are mostly mysterious to me, but it is generally acknowledged that being assaulted with symbols of love, devoted couples, and proclamations of affection for an entire day can make the single person feel excluded, defective, and unworthy of happiness.

I can therefore think of no better cause than to present you with my treatise on the subject, entitled "Eight Excellent Reasons for the Perpetual Bachelor or Bachelorette to Enjoy His or Her Valentine's Day by Preserving His or Her Rose (Meaning the Bloom of a Self-Centred, Self-Fulfilled Life) While Celebrating the Glorious Festivity of Love, and Not Eating His or Her Loneliness Away With a Box of Discount Wal-Mart Seasonal Chocolates Whilst Sitting in Front of the Television."

Firstly, and perhaps most obviously, are two words: *me time*. On this wondrous day we can celebrate all the advantages of being selfishly, joyously single. There is no pressure, no expectations. Valentine's Day is fraught with the potential for disaster for couples, whose romantic fantasies will be

"On this day, a whole new demographic of people become available for you to court, flirt with, or hook up with. Crowds of single, weepy, dead-inside students are pretending not to feel lonely by criticizing Valentine's Day [...] This should be read as subtextual begging for you to swoop in and save them from themselves."

mostly disappointed, no matter how grand their partner strives to make them feel. But the single person can count themselves gloriously exempt from these dissatisfactions.

Secondly, for those who can't appreciate the tremendous gift of solitude, there's also the fact that on this day, a *whole new demographic* of people become available for you to court, flirt with, or hook up with. Crowds of single, weepy, dead-inside students are pretending not to feel lonely by criticizing Valentine's Day as a stupid materialist fantasy. This should be read as subtextual begging for you to swoop in and save them from themselves.

Thirdly, for those who desire a more active Valentine's experience, it is the perfect time for creating drama. Be it seducing someone who is in a relationship and watching the ensuing fireworks, or proclaiming your love for someone who you have only just met to see how creeped out they become, the festering pit of emotions and pheromones that are stirred up on Valentine's Day create the perfect atmosphere to detonate some major melodrama bombs.

Fourthly, you can be a crusader of false love. Brighten other peoples' day by passing a flirty note to a pretty stranger, or even to an ugly person who looks like they really need it. You can feel good about yourself with the knowledge that you've created some

happy delusions.

Fifthly, Valentine's is a great day to spend time with friends and appreciate that friendship is a brand of love that's not inferior to any romantic attachment. Alternately, if you think this is bullshit, you can interfere in your friends' relationships. Enjoy the feeling of power as you draw them together, and the knowledge that with every inch that you ingratiate yourself in their relationship, the more dependent their love becomes on you.

Sixthly and seventhly, use all that angst (or anger and unrequited infatuation) to create some good old artwork of suffering, or by making yourself the art and dressing up. Like Halloween, Valentine's Day is a perfect occasion to look slutty for no reason.

Eighthly, and most importantly — at the risk of sentimentalizing — remember that Valentine's Day is a holiday to promote love, and love is generally a good thing. Even though you will never find love for yourself, appreciate that other peoples' love matters too. If you are single and dissatisfied with that fact, realize that Valentine's Day is a celebration of love. Even though you are alone, because you are flawed and unappealing, romance just might find you someday. You wouldn't want to have to eat your words — especially not after all that comfort-food binging you've been doing.



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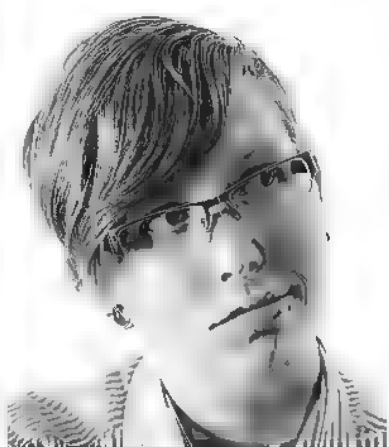
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Transgender rights bill a necessity



ALIX KEMP

Conservative opponents have dubbed Bill C-389 the “bathroom bill,” warning that if it passes, sexual predators will legally be allowed access to women’s washrooms. This, of course, is bullshit; C-389 will add “gender identity” and “gender expression” as protected categories under the Canada Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code’s hate crimes section, *not* grant bathroom privileges to rapists. The bill passed in the House of Commons on Wednesday, and still needs to clear the Tory-controlled Senate before it becomes law.

Gender expression refers to the outward showing of someone’s inner experience with gender. Since it’s currently not a protected category under the law, as someone who is gender-queer — and because I occasionally bind my chest or wear clothing from the men’s section of the department store, or because I’m just a little too androgynous — potential employers can refuse to hire me.

It’s currently perfectly legal to discriminate against someone on the basis of their gender identity or expression in Canada. Bill C-389 will finally make it illegal to fire someone from their job because they identify as transgender, or to deny them access to housing or essential services like healthcare. While passage of the bill isn’t yet guaranteed, I greeted the 143–135 vote with a sigh of relief.

But opposition to the bill has come from all quarters of the “pro-family” camp, with arguments ranging from warnings that it will result in kindergarten lessons about transgenderism, to one Christian university professor threatening that “it will entrench in Canadian law the notion that sex and/or gender are basically social constructs, products of a series of human choices, based not in natural order but in more or less arbitrary acts of interpretation.”

I fail to see how granting transgender individuals protection from discrimination would interfere with anyone’s religious freedom. In fact, they’re free to loathe and despise me as much as they want.

Personally, I can’t see what’s so horrible about either of those possible outcomes. Teaching children to accept people who are different than them isn’t going to cause Canadian society to implode, nor is having the law reflect the fact that people have a wide variety of ways of experiencing gender.

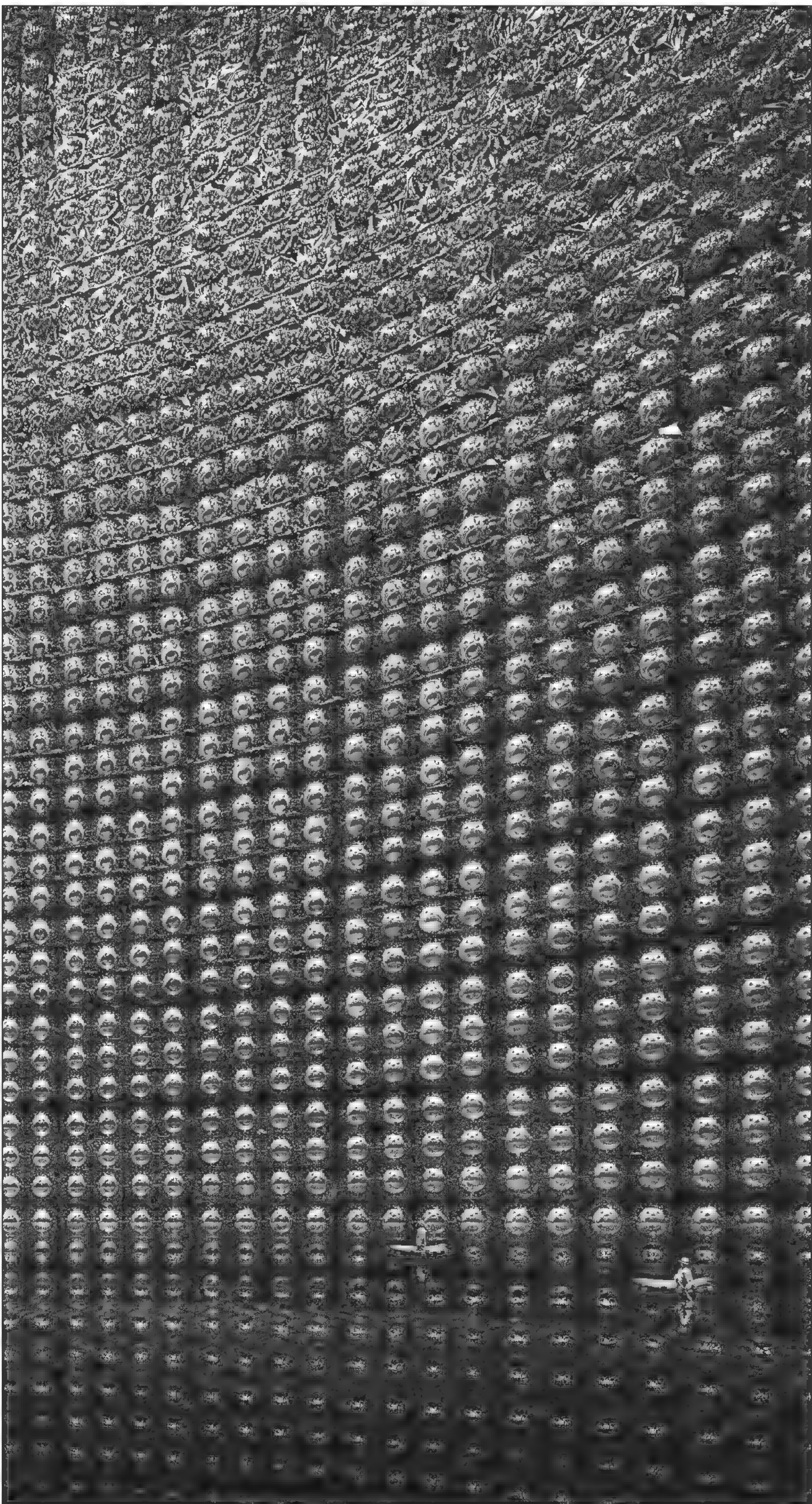
One of my favourite arguments against C-389 came from an editorial on the *Catholic Insight* website, which argued that granting equal rights to transgender and gender-queer people would “result in the harassment of recognized religious groups by an unrecognized ‘faith-based’ group with the help of the

state,” and that the bill would “be a tool, not for increased tolerance, but for persecution and prosecution.” I fail to see how granting transgender individuals protection from discrimination would interfere with anyone’s religious freedom. In fact, they’re free to loathe and despise me as much as they want, but it would be nice if I were still guaranteed equal opportunities for employment.

I’ll admit that I have my own reservations about hate crime legislation. I’ve never felt that punishing people for what they were thinking or feeling while undertaking an act that’s *already illegal* is particularly effective. What hate crime legislation underscores has always been law enforcement’s failure to protect minority groups unless forced to do so by special statutes, and reflects an attitude that creating more laws will somehow make the ones that already exist more effective.

But protection against discrimination is a different animal altogether. While conservatives have tried to argue that transgender individuals are already protected by existing clauses in the Human Rights Code, like “sex” and “sexual orientation,” that just isn’t the case. They simply don’t want to extend protection to another class of supposed perverts.

Gender identity and gender expression are complicated categories, and ones not always easily understood by a large portion of the population. But that doesn’t make us any less deserving of legal protection. The attempts of pro-family groups to cast transgender people as sexual predators covertly seeking access to women’s change-rooms in order to assault women and children only demonstrates exactly how necessary Bill C-389 is.



THE BURLAP SACK

All winter long, Edmonton Transit has been torturing thousands of commuters forced to deal with inexplicably late buses, incompetent service, and perpetually broken-down LRT trains. As an apologetic act of love this Valentine’s Day season, ETS has given us the gift of... increased fares?

Oh dear God. As if rates weren’t preposterously high enough already, ETS has gone stupid on us by charging \$2.85 to board the bus. Yes folks, it’s now time to carry along your piggy bank every time you decide to take public transit. Where else are you going to find that type of change? I can imagine it already — hopeless commuters scrounging for dimes and nickels in the depths of their wallets, only to have bus operators drive right past them.

In fact, the day the rate increased, an 11-year-old boy was kicked off the bus after informing the driver he was ten cents short. This is a great example of ETS’ distorted notion of supply and demand laws: service goes down, price goes up. The city’s excuse is that the new rate is a “transition” for an eventual \$3 price hike. Many commuters without the change will just pay \$3 anyway, so as transitions go, this is pretty much garbage.

But that’s ETS for you: the everyday way to screw you over. Watch out bus drivers, because I’ll be carrying my dimes and nickels in my burlap sack.

ALEX MIGDAL

THREELINESFREE

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

I n't a y thought Lister dodgega was fun. Then I rea'zed peop e weren't be'ng 'ron'c 'n the' zea. Dodgega = ser'ous bus'ness.

there s a pokemon c up? too coo

Attent'ion certa'n coupes. You're 'n a ecture na , not on a date. Please don't make everyone around you fee 'ke a th'rd wnee.

You make me sm'ie, and are amaz'ng y charming. I fee good around you. Just w'sn I had t'n me to te you.

Peop e who partic'pate ots or who ask many quest'ons aren't annoy'ng. The annoy'ng peop e are the ones who text 'n class or who wn'sper and g'gge w'n'e the prof's ta'king.

Ask'ng a bas'c quest'ion to the Arts undergraduate adv'sors? Yean, they have an att'tude for that.

g'r 'n thursday n'ght eng'sn w'th the ong maroon na'r, the 'gnts 'tera y get br'ghter when you wa k under them...?

Fe ow bus'ness students, et's turn down the doucne factor sna we? No wonder peop e on campus nate us. S'ncere y, a d'sgrunt ed bus'ness student

To the g'r pes'ide me 'n cnem. Stop ean'ng over my snoulder to ook at my notes a class. I don't know you!

To the dude(s) cru's'ng up and down the street w'th the obnox'ous y no'sy ven'ces READ MY WORDS GET A LIFE! (or a good muff er)

' do not know what 's go'ng 'n my EE 238, EE 250, EE 231, Phys 230, Cnem 243 and my ENGL 121 courses.

Dear peop e 'n H.U.B, you a wa k 'ke fuck'ng 'd'ots. A of you.

I'm 3 months away from f'n'sh'ng my degree and I'm not exc'ed at a , just terr'f'ed. A that I've earned 'n 5 years of scnoo 's that I nate everyone.

I ove now they announced the no-fun floors 'n L'ster AFTER the returner app'cation dead'ne.

To my c assmates 'n Cnem 101/3 I'm sorry I'm ate a ot. I'm rea y work'ng on 't. To my c assmates 'n Engg 130 I have a c ass 'n the Human'ties Center r'ght before Engg. It s a the way across campus, but I'm on y a fe w m'utes ate and I try to come 'n qu'et y.

Dear gorgeous 'n SMO 441. You're beaut'fu , why do I on y see you t w'ce a week?

To the peop e who d'dnt make room on the e evator for the woman 'n a wnee cna'r, karma Is gonna get you

To the g'r 'n the ed north 2nd eve bathroom today, PLEASE wash your hands next t'me. E.w. That goes for a of you. Is 't so nard? rea y? WASH YOUR FREAKING HANDS PEOPLE!!

(take note guy at the front of my ANTHR101 class...) some quest'ons are redundant; please stop answer'ng them.

I ' show you a Brad Chury. Drop your pants.

' 'ked r'vers'ide ounge before 't was coo , before 't so d out. now 't has natura 'gnt'ng and open-a'r bac'ones, and everyth'ng sucks. too many peop e.

You 'n my Po ' Sc' 101 class - wash your t'gnts.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).

"Vision is an intelligent form of thought."

— ANDREAS GURSKY

GATEWAY PHOTO

Intellectual since 1910

Photo meetings Fridays at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB

Search no further for the perfect Valentine's Day gift



JONN
KMECH

"Do you really think you could walk through SUB, and discover flowers, candy, chocolate, and everlasting love lying around, to be picked up and appreciated? No. No, you cannot. But, can you walk through SUB on an average day and discover me? Yes. Yes, you can."

With Valentine's Day yet again on the horizon, a lot of people are searching for that special something to give to their loved one. Still others are single, by themselves, and possibly feeling like Valentine's Day will pass them by without having anyone special. To all of these people, I say: don't worry. For this Valentine's Day, you should give the gift of me.

You may be confused. Afraid, even, by the mere suggestion of giving such a towering spectacle of humanity to your loved one, or even yourself, as a gift for Valentine's Day. But don't fret. For I am softer than the finest rose and more supple than the silkiest satin, sweeter and smoother than a chocolate truffle. But not too smooth. No, I still offer an essential, stubbly roughness in just the perfect amount, a kind of gruff sentimentality. Much like a Ferrero Rocher, but in human form.

I mean, this face. These arms. This ass. If I could auction my ass off, I would. But then how would I be able to share it so selflessly with the student population?

Yet, despite all these admirable qualities, on which Norse mythology is essentially based, and having a body that practically created the golden ratio of proportions, I find

myself both dateless and aesthetically pleasing. I'm not exactly sure how this situation occurred — perhaps it was my raw-sewage-like odour — but this is why I've decided to give myself away.

For all the single ladies out there, I'd just like to make you aware that I'm sitting right here, hunched over and slovenly, yet here all the same. Do you really think you could walk through SUB, and discover flowers, candy, chocolate, and everlasting love lying around, to be picked up and appreciated? No. No, you cannot. But, can you walk through SUB on an average day and discover me? Yes. Yes, you can.

Yet how many times this year have mobs of women frantically rushed into my office (which, I should note for completeness' sake, is on the third floor of SUB) nearly tearing me asunder in their quest to get a piece of me? Merely once a week, at most. It's truly pathetic, when there's so much of me to go around. Yet I sit here, eating a Taco Time burrito, getting sour cream and baked beans all over my face while trolling internet forums, while women everywhere could be getting a taste of that delicious and authentic Mexican flavour by licking it off. It's still good, I promise. Perhaps they just cannot accept my unconditional love.

For those people who are already in relationships, don't fret. You can enjoy the gift of me as well. I make for a fantastic third wheel in most partnerships. For you ladies boxing me up and giving me to your boyfriends, I can offer only my friendship, in a way that will take his attention away from you and only increase your neediness. For the guys giving me to your ladies, first of all — I can only admire your courage. But fear not, for I will not steal your sweetheart. All I can offer is an incredibly well-sculpted shoulder to cry on, and emotional support when you begin to make rash and completely thoughtless claims about her being too needy.

And it's not even like I'm asking to be paid or anything. That would be a tad narcissistic, now wouldn't it? This is about openness and appreciation, not shameless vanity. All I ask is that you keep yourself open to the possibility that I will accept cash donations if people feel like rewarding me for being myself.

But the most important thing to remember is: be careful this Valentine's Day. There's a lot of jackasses out there who think they're God's gift to women. But, if you're lucky enough to get me as a gift, I should be able to fend them off.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

EDITOR FOR "SALE" Because we couldn't get anyone to actually pay for him.

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The eternal debate about love's holiday continues

It's a poor excuse for materialism and bad chick flicks



KATHERINE
SPEUR

point

Valentine's Day: an excuse to get fat on chocolate, buy expensive lingerie, and, for those couples out there, have wild sex. Personally, whenever I hear someone say, "I love Valentine's Day," I want to punch their face in. I hear it every year and am always left clueless. The tacky balloons, the overpriced floral arrangements, and who could forget the fat little cherub with the bow and arrow.

January has New Years, April has Easter, and February ... has Valentine's Day, a sad and pathetic excuse for a holiday. It makes single people feel like shit for a day and makes couples broke.

Remember elementary school? Remember being forced to ask your parents to buy a pack of 20 Scooby-Doo valentines? Remember having to make a valentine for every single person in the class, even the kids you didn't talk to? Having to seal every one shut with a heart sticker? I cringe just thinking about it.

I also cringe thinking about the box of chocolates rotting somewhere in my closet from last Valentine's Day. Maybe I should just give them to someone this year and make it look like a kind gesture, despite the fact that they're probably poisonous by now.

I feel particularly bad for men on this so-called "holiday." They have to spend their hard-earned cash on overpriced flowers that will die in a week anyway. Women expect their boyfriends to pay for a \$13 card and write some romantic poem about their deep affection.

They also force their partners to suffer through romantic comedies starring Katherine Heigl.

Luckily for us university students, Valentine's Day lands on a Monday this year, which means nauseating PDA all over campus. Get ready, you don't want to miss this. You might also find a lot of students bitching about their hangovers, since Valentine's Day is yet another excuse for students to get drunk on pub-crawls. And, let's face it, everyone suddenly feels exponentially hornier the weekend before.

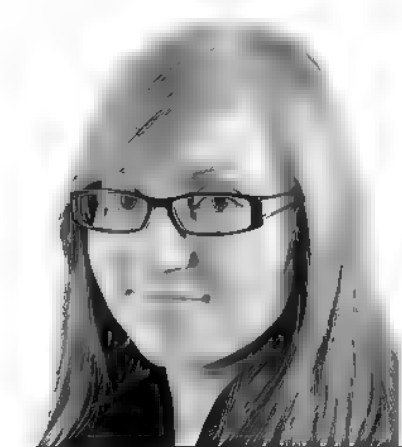
Luckily for us university students, Valentine's Day lands on a Monday this year, which means nauseating PDA all over campus. Get ready, you don't want to miss this.

I'm not ranting because I don't have a valentine. I assure you, I'm not some sad, single girl that hates Valentine's Day because she's depressed about her love life. And no, I'm not that chick who buys a massive tub of Rolo ice cream and cries into it while watching *The Notebook*. I just feel the need to speak for all the souls out there who haven't been hit by some random cherub and his arrow.

Regardless of whether you like it or not, we all know that Valentine's Day is a pathetic excuse for excessive consumerism. As North Americans, we accept it every year and let it rob us for all we're worth. That's life.

Sadly, despite what I say, the sex shops will continue to sell out their chains and whips, the florists will sell out their over-priced roses, and the cosmopolitans will be flying off the bar. Watch out world, here comes Monday.

Hatred for Valentine's Day shows how bitter people are



ALANA
WILLERTON

counterpoint

Valentine's Day: you either love it or you hate it. Either way, the fact remains that over the years, Valentine's Day seems to have left a bad taste in the mouths of many for one reason or another. This unfortunately all-too-common mindset illustrates how we've managed to turn what can be an otherwise romantic, charming holiday into a manifesto of hatred.

Valentine's Day has long been criticized for being too commercial. Now, you have to wonder why people care about this aspect at all. Nobody is forcing anyone to go out and buy anything. If you don't want to buy that heart-shaped box of chocolates, then you don't have to; it's as simple as that. The fact that companies take advantage of Valentine's Day to make money is no different from what is done at Christmas, Easter, or any other holiday.

Another complaint is that there are too many expectations about Valentine's Day. And what tends to happen when those expectations aren't met? We become bitter — bitter that we have a lousy valentine, or that we don't have one at all. You might even still be stewing over the time you were the only one in your Grade 2 class who didn't receive a Scooby-Doo valentine from the popular girl.

The real problem here lies in the fact that Valentine's Day is being taken way too seriously. Come on — it's a holiday that revolves around the concept of a cherubic baby with wings shooting people with arrows. Not exactly

thought-provoking material. Valentine's Day is meant to be a whimsical day of showing off your love for family, friends, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

So drop the expectations, because the only one ruining this holiday for yourself is you. If your issue is over a cardboard Scooby-Doo valentine card, then it's time to move on.

The real problem here lies in the fact that Valentine's Day is being taken way too seriously. Come on — it's a holiday that revolves around the concept of a cherubic baby with wings shooting people with arrows.

The only thing more annoying than having to listen to people complain about Valentine's Day is — oh wait, there *isn't* anything. People are too quick to jump on the hater bandwagon, certain they'll be ridiculed if they stand up for Cupid's favorite holiday. Most people who claim to hate the holiday can't even tell you why exactly they hate it, just that they do.


Now, just because I'm pro-Valentine's Day doesn't mean I'm saying that come February 14, we should all go out, deck ourselves in red and pink, and string paper hearts from the rafters of HUB. After all, Valentine's Day is ultimately just that, a day. It's not a season, a national holiday, or even a long weekend. We don't get time off from school, or get paid overtime at work.

It's technically a day like any other, only with roses and chocolates thrown in the mix. Remind yourselves of this in the days leading up to Valentine's Day — who knows, you may even find yourself enjoying it this year.

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MIGHT
THINK
...

VOTE



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/ EXPENSIVE STUFF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT / LUDICROUS FEES / BLEEDING YOU DRY

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REALLY
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THE
← GATEWAY →
Purity
TEST

The dusty road stands before you, littered with dead bodies and screaming children. You've done this. Actions taken by you and your posse have left a path of carnage and mayhem scattered across the dusty plains. Fortunately, your recent actions will earn you killer points in this year's Purity Test. But on the flip side, you now have a criminal record the length of your arm and the sherriff is standing before you, a noose in one hand, ready to read

THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU

Photos by Dan
McKinnin and
Sam Brooks

SEX

Have you ever kissed a member of the opposite sex? (1pt)
The same sex? (1pt)
A kiss on the mouth? (1pt)
Somewhere other than the mouth? (2pts)
With tongue? (1pt)
Kissed two people at once? (3pts)
Three? (5pts)
Were they related? (10pts)
To you? (-50pts)

Have you ever given or received (double points for both)
A handjob? (1pt)
Oral sex? (1pt)
Anal penetration? (2pts)
Rim job? (3pts)
A golden shower? (4pts)
A rusty trombone? (5pts)
A duck funnel? (5pts)
Did you just have to "urban dictionary" duck funnel? (-1pt)
Have you ever given yourself the stranger? (1pt, and you're a sad human being)

Have you ever had a roll in the hay? By that we mean sex. (1pt)
Was it actually in hay? (2pts)
Ever had sex outside? (2pts)
In a horseless carriage? (1pt)
On a horse? (5pts)
On a beach? (5pts)
In a park? (5pts)
In a public place? (5pts)
In jail? (10pts)

Ever had sex on campus? (2pts)
In Quad? (4pts)
In Quad on a horse? (40pts)
In a campus library? (4pts)
In HUB (while not living there)? (1pt)
In SUB? (2pts)
In Lister? (2pts)
In Indira's \$1-million house? (20pts)
Was it on her desk? (40pts)
With Indira? (win)

Ever had sex on public transit? (3pts)
At an ETS bus stop? (4pts)
Did you come before the bus? (-3pts, and fuck ETS)
On the LRT? (3pts)
Did you use the phrase "next stop, Bay station?" (5pts)
Have you ever said "please stand back from the platform edges" during sex? (10pts)

How many points do you have in the alphabet

game? (1pt for each letter)
Have you ever played 'just the tip'? (-1pt)
Just to see what it feels like? (-2pts)
Just a little bit? (-5pts, and Jesus Christ, just have sex already)

Have you ever had sex in missionary? (1pt)
Doggie-style? (3pts)
Cowgirl? (3pts)
Reverse cowgirl? (3pts)
Inverse cowgirl? (...what?)
Cowboy? (5pts)
Did you stay on for eight seconds? (-10pts)
Did you bring a lasso? (5pts)
Done 69? (3pts)
Have you tried the Kama Sutra? (2pts)
Was it the pop-up version? (1pt)
Invented a new Kama Sutra position? (5pts)
Have you had a Kama Sutra night? (2pts)
A Kama Sutra year? (10pts)
Engaged in tantric sex (10pts)

Have you ever cheated on your significant other? (1pt)
With more than one person at once? (2pts)
How many people did you have on the go at once? (5pts per person after the first two)
Have you been cheated on? (5pts, you poor bastard)
Has anyone ever cheated on their significant other with you? (5pts, you pimp bastard)
Was it with Old Spice Guy? (50pts)
Did he swan dive you? (50pts)
On YouTube? (100pts)
Are you on a horse? (1pt)
Did you have sex with that horse? (-10pts)

Have you ever contracted crabs? (1pt)
Gonorrhea? (2pts)
Chlamydia? (2pts)
Herpes? (0pts, you probably have it already)
HIV? (10pts, and our condolences)
Syphilis? (10pts)
Have you caught them all? (20pts)
Did they use your body as a battleground? (30pts)

Have you ever used the phrase "Duck, you sucker?" (1pt)
Was it while receiving oral sex? (10pts)

You masturbate. (1pt)
More than three times in a day? (2pts)
More than five times in a day? (3pts)
So many times in a day you lost count? (4pts)
To pornographic pictures or videos? (1pt)
To erotic fiction? (1pt)
To a picture on Facebook? (2pts)
To a picture in *The Gateway*? (3pts)
Was it to Dick and Douche? (5pts)
Have you ever procrastubated? (1pt)

Have you ever thought about your significant other while masturbating? (1pt)
Someone other than your S.O.? (2pts)
Your S.O.'s sibling? (2pts)

Your S.O.'s parents? (2pts)
Your S.O.'s grandparents? (10pts)
Someone else's S.O.? (2pts)
Someone famous? (1pt)
A classmate? (2pts)
A coworker? (2pts)
In front of them? (5pts)

Are you good? (1pt)
Bad? (5pts)
Ugly? (10pts)

Have you ever purchased condoms? (1pt)
Were they Trojan
Magnums? (3pts)
Have you ever dropped a Magnum condom "accidentally"? (3pts)
Was it for your magnum sized dong? (3pts)
Have you ever insisted on being called Dr.
Toboggan? (1pt)
Mantis Toboggan? (2pts)
The Duke? (3pts)
Have you ever used a Gateway condom? (10pts and thanks for playing safe)

Ever bought a sex toy? (2pts)
Bought so many you needed to buy a trunk to put them in? (3pts)
Bought sex? (4pts)
Bought a sex slave? (5pts)
Bought so many you needed to buy a cage to put them in? (10pts)
Sold sex? (25pts)
Sold your virginity? (50pts)
To pay for your CoSSS fee? (-\$290)
Saved yourself until marriage? (-5pts)

Have you ever had a one-night stand? (2pts)
Was it with a Listerite? (5pts)
Did you contract Norovirus? (-10pts)
Did you lie about a family emergency to get rid of them? (5pts)
About being sick? (5pts)
An International crisis? (5pts)
A bank robbery? (5pts)
Have you ever fucked yourself into a problem? (1pt)
Did you fuck yourself out? (2pts)
Did it cause an even bigger problem? (5pts)
Have you ever had a fuck buddy? (2pts)
Friends with benefits? (4pts)

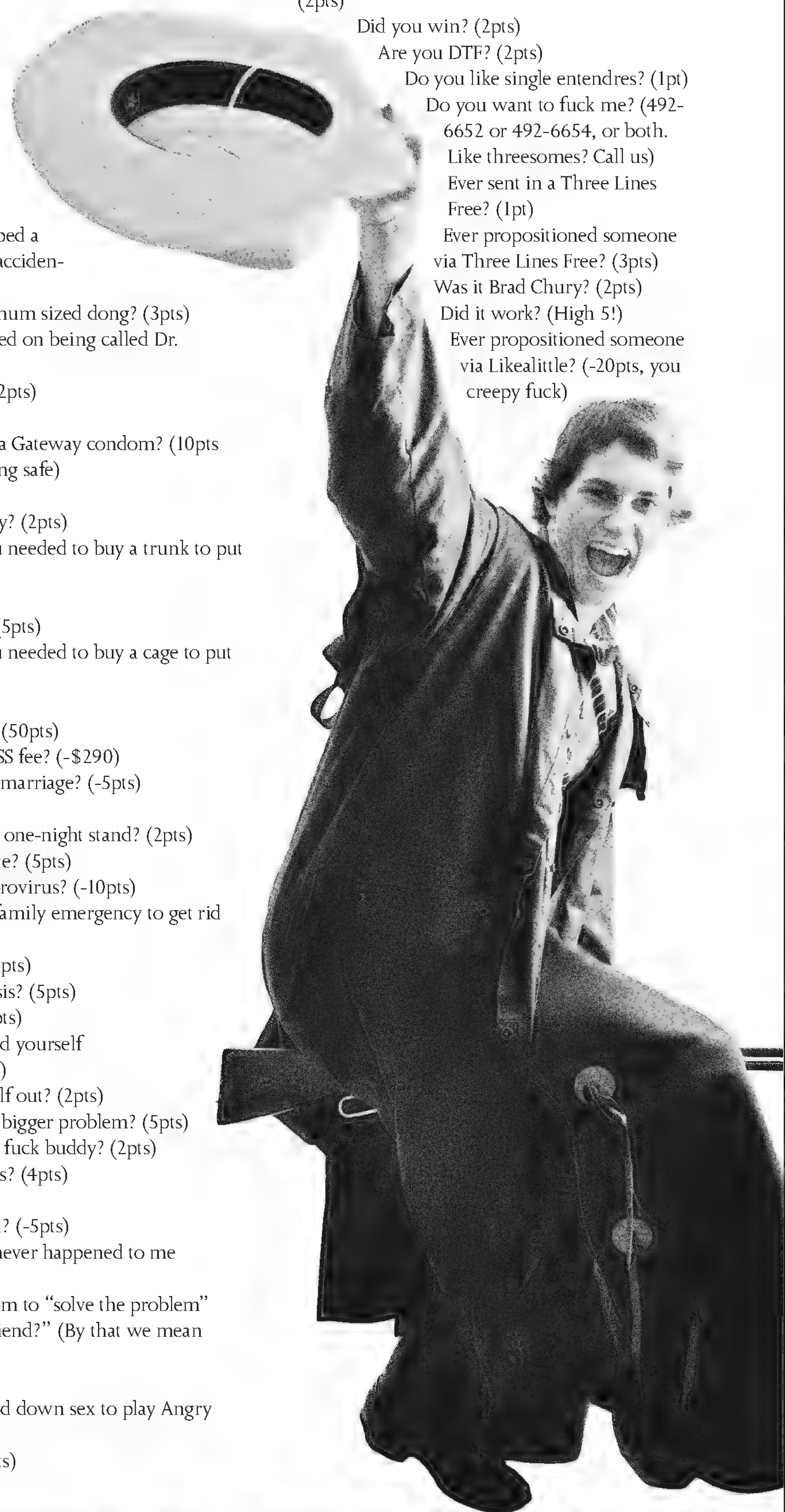
Ever had DeadWood? (-5pts)
Played it off as "it's never happened to me before?" (5pts)
Went to the bathroom to "solve the problem" with a "little blue friend?" (By that we mean Viagra.) (10pts)

Have you ever turned down sex to play Angry Birds? (-5pts)
Was it worth it? (5pts)

Did they knock your house down afterwards? (5pts)
Are you a pig? (5pts)

Ever actually tossed a bird at a pig? (8pts)
Have you ever given or received a free moustache ride? (1pt)
Have you ever played "who's in my mouth"? (2pts)

Did you win? (2pts)
Are you DTF? (2pts)
Do you like single entendres? (1pt)
Do you want to fuck me? (492-6652 or 492-6654, or both.
Like threesomes? Call us)
Ever sent in a Three Lines Free? (1pt)
Ever propositioned someone via Three Lines Free? (3pts)
Was it Brad Chury? (2pts)
Did it work? (High 5!)
Ever propositioned someone via Likealittle? (-20pts, you creepy fuck)



*"Away from me,
you filthy harlots!"*



GLUTTONY

Ever had a Wildcat donair from Marco's? (2pts)
The Tombstone? (5pts)
Did you die from dysentery? (-1pt, liar)
... Or were you still hungry? (10pts)

Have you ever eaten an entire animal? (2pt)
Eaten two different animals at the same time? (3pts)
More than two? (4pts plus one more for every additional animal)

Eaten at McDonalds after 2 a.m.? (1pt)
Did you order the McGangBang? (5pts)
With a side of Chicken McNuggets? (2pts)
And a milkshake? (5pts)
Are you an avid subscriber of Epic Meal Time? (2pts)

Have you ever made dinner between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m.? (1pt)
Did it seem like a good idea at the time? (1pt)
Did you have to give it back 20 minutes later? (2pts)
Did you make some more after that? (5pts)

Have you ever had food poisoning? (1pt)
Given yourself food poisoning? (2pts)

By eating mouldy food? (3pts)
Given a friend food poisoning? (5pts)
A family member? (6pts)
On purpose? (8pts)

Have you ever gone to the food bank? (1pt)
Because you were too poor to buy food? (10pts)
Too cheap? (-1pt)
Too lazy? (-5pts)

How many consecutive days have you eaten bacon? (2pts for every day)
Pizza? (1pt for every day)
McDonald's? (1pt for every day)
The KFC Double Down? (5pts for every day)
The mythical McRib? (10pts for every day)



CRIME

Have you ever gotten a speeding ticket? (1pt)
Shoplifted? (2pts)
Vandalized something? (4pts)
Committed a B&E? (4pts)
Committed a T&A? (-2 pts, your ass is not a crime)
Stolen someone's wallet? (2pts)
Stolen their identity? (5pts)
Was it Stephen Harper's? (10pts)
Stolen a car? (20pts)
Tipped a cow? (10pts)
Committed mail fraud? (10pts, and another 10pts if you know what that is)
Robbed a bank? (40pts)
Killed someone? (100pts)
Stolen cable? (5pts)
Stolen wireless internet? (1pt)

Had an arrest warrant out for you by Interpol? (50pts)
Wanted to arrest Interpol the band? (stop being a hipster douchebag)

Have you been arrested? (5pts)
Have you been to the drunk tank? (1pt)
Have you ever read about your own exploits in Campus Crime Beat? (1pt)
Are you the asshole who wedged a car under CAB? (10pts)
Have you been booked by Campus 5-0? (20pts)
Do they have your mom on speed dial? (40pts)
Do they call for reasons other than what you did last Friday night? (50pts for your mom, -1pt for you)

Have you ever been to court? (1pt)
As the defendant? (3pts)

Have you ever fired a gun? (1pt)
Carried a concealed weapon? (10pts)
Did you shoot the sheriff? (10pts)
Or just his deputy? (5pts)
Do you consider yourself a badass? (-2pts, lame)
Are you Dean of Students Frank Robinson? (100pts, and please, for the love of Christ, don't hurt us)

Have you ever been kicked out of a bar? (4pts)
Of a house party? (5pts)
Your best friend's house party? (5pts)
Gotten into a bar fight? (6pts)
Did you start it? (10pts)
Did you finish it? (20pts)
Did you toss a guy into a jukebox? (5pts)
Did it start playing music? (10pts, and touché)

Would you kill a man for a fistful of dollars? (4pts)
For a few dollars more? (6pts)
Are you Clint Eastwood? (10,000pts, sir)

DRUGS

Do you smoke? (1pt)
Ever smoked cigars? (1pt)
Smoked from a pipe? (4pts)
Smoked oregano? (10pts)
Smoked a tampon? (20pts)

Have you smoked pot? (1pt)
Grown it? (5pts)
Dealed it? (10pts)
Eaten "special" food? (1pt for brownies, 2pts for anything else)
Used a bong? (1pts)
Made a bong? (2pts)

Have you ever been drunk? (1pt)
So drunk you threw up? (1pt)
In a bar? (2pts)
On the bar? (2pts)
On the bartender? (3pts)
On someone else? (3pts)
In a cab? (3pts)
On a bus? (3pts)
Out the side of a moving vehicle? (4pts)
On a wagon? (5pts)
On a horse? (10pts)
On a chicken? (10pts)
Did you wake up in the morning feeling like P. Diddy? (10pts and now Ke\$ha is stuck in your head)

Is my love your drug? (-5pts)
Did the DJ catch you falling in love again? (-5pts)

Have you ever been high on...
Shrooms? (2pts)
Peyote? (3pts)
Acid? (6pts)
MDMA? (5pts)
Salvia? (3pts)
Because Miley Cyrus made it cool? (-5pts)
Cocaine? (10pts)
Heroin? (15pts)
Meth? (15pts)
PCP? (20pts)
Glue? (10pts)
Manure? (automatic fail)
Ether? (10pts)
Have you hot-boxed your horseless carriage? (5pts)
Your dorm room? (10pts and your damage deposit)
Shed? (5pts)
Parent's car? (5pts)
Parent's basement? (10pts)
With your parents? (20pts)

What's the earliest you've ever been drunk? (1pt for every hour before 4 p.m.)
What's the earliest you've been high? (1pt for every hour before 4:20 p.m.)
What's your longest bender? (2pts for every day after the fifth)
Have you had a drink on the job? (1pt)
Been drunk on the job? (2pts)
Gotten high on the job? (3pts)

Have you ever chugged a beer? (1pt)
Shotgunned a beer? (2pts)
Bonged a beer? (3pts)
Done a keg stand? (4pts)
Done a body shot? (3pts)
Drank an entire bottle of wine? (3pts)
Drank an entire 6-pack? (2pts)
12-pack? (4pts)
24-pack? (8pts)
Finished a two-six? (6pts)
Drank a 40? (8pts)
Had a Pint of Whiskey? (5pts)
Drank absinthe? (2pts)
Played beer pong? (2pts)
Played beersbie? (2pts)
Won at beersbie? (3pts)
Ever had an alcohol enema? (50pts for surviving)
Puked and rallied? (5pts)

Have you ever been so drunk you blacked out? (2pts)
Have you ever woken up with your car on the front lawn? (5pts)
In a different city? (10pts)
In a different country? (50pts)
Have you ever made bathtub gin? (10pts)
Was it in Lister? (50pts)
Were you moved to an alcohol-free floor because of it? (10pts)

Done the power hour? (6pts)
Have you done the centurion? (10pts)
Have you ever drunk out of a jug with "XXX" on the label? (5pts)

"This is actually pretty fun."



"I have seen thine adulteries, the lewdness of thy whoredom! Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem!"
Jeremiah 13:27



*“You girls is
right purdy.”*



*“Hello, miss. You
ain’t otherwise
engaged, I trust?”*



*“You tryin’ to
steal my woman,
ya skinny bastard?”*

VICES

Slept in? (1pt)
Slept in class? (1pt)
Snored in class? (2pts)
Skipped a class? (1pt)
An entire week of a single class? (2pts)
An entire month of a single class? (3pts)
The entire term — and you didn’t withdraw? (4pts)
Ever cheated on a test? (1pt)
... In elementary school? (-2pts)

Have you told a dirty joke? (1pt)
To your parents? (2pts)

Have you ever stayed up late playing a video game? (1pt)
Was it World of Warcraft? (-1pt, loser)
Call of Duty? (1pt)
An iPhone game? (-3pts)
Waited for a midnight release of a video game? (-1pt)
Did you dress up for it? (-5pts)
Did you release at midnight? (2pts)
Have you used a vibrating controller to pleasure yourself during a video game? (5pts)
Had a heart attack because you were playing a video game? (-50pts, get some goddamn sun you dweeb)

Do you have tattoos? (1pt for each tattoo)
Do you have any tattoos proclaiming your love for Nickelback? (-2pts for each tattoo)
Do you have piercings? (1pt for each piercing, first ear lobe piercings don’t count)
Nipple piercings? (2pts each)
Genital piercings? (3pts each)

Is your sex on fire? (2pts)
Is your genitalia literally on fire right now? (-10pts and put that shit out, man)

Do you chew tobacco? (10pts)
Chew dick? (20pts)
A bag of dicks? (40pts)

Have you ever punched a wild animal? (2pts)
Have you ever stroked the furry wall? (1pt)
Have you ever danced to double dream hands? (2pts)
Did you get laid because of it? (10pts, also, teach us)
Have you lied? (1pt)
Did you love the way you lied? (1pt)
Did your house burn down because of it? (-2pts)
Did you still get to hang out with Megan Fox? (5pts)

Have you been to a shooting range? (1pt)
A strip club? (2pts)
A nude beach? (3pts)

Have you flirted with someone? (1pt)
Even though you knew they were in a relationship with someone else? (2pts)
Did they flirt back? (1pt)
... Or tell you to back off, you fucking creep? (-3pts)
Taken dirty pictures of yourself? (3pts)
Sent them to somebody? (3pts)
... who you weren’t dating? (4pts)
Sent somebody dirty pictures of someone else, and passed them off as your own? (-5pts)

Have you ever stayed at the Hilton? (1pt)
Was it lovely? (0pts)
Did someone make you eat your own vomit? (-5pts)
Are you a Deke? (-5 years)

BONUS

Is your name Mike Doyle? (5pts! Mike! Mike! Mike!)
How many Purity Tests have you taken before this one? (1pt per test)
Have you ever got a negative score on the Purity Test? (-200pts, sucka)
Have you ever used the Purity Test as a checklist to increase your score? (1pt)
Are you doing this test in a bar? (1pt)
In class? (2pts)
During an exam? (3pts)
Were you completely honest about every answer? (-1pt, liar)

THE JURY’S DECISION

MISSIONARY (0-75)

You are the personification of purity. You gave up your cowboy hat and spurred boots for fashionable monk robes long ago and never looked back. You’d never be seen in a saloon—even a Shirley Temple is too tainted by sin to grace your snow white esophagus. Whoring around? More like snoring around. Sex just doesn’t interest you. When someone asks you to check out their huge gun, you wonder where their holster is. Don’t worry though, you’re doing God’s work and you like it. You’re having a great time building monasteries, converting the natives, and bringing the potato salad to your church’s monthly potlucks. Your life isn’t exactly action-packed, but at least you’re not likely to be caught in a shootout.

Gatewayers in this category: Jordan Ching, Ross Vincent, Alexandria Eldridge, Scott Fenwick, Sam Brooks

PROSPECTOR (76-150)

You may not go on week-long benders, but you’ve known to partake in a few vices from time to time. Working on the land every day makes you tired and liable to go for a few drinks and, maybe on occasion, visit the saloon for more than just the drinks. But at the end of the day, you’re back to the hard work that defines you, and your relatively straight-and-narrow ways. How can you work the land if you’re high on salvia?

Gatewayers in this category: Madeline Smith, Jonn Kmech, Lance Mudryk

GUNSLINGER (151-249)

You’re no slouch — you’re more than happy to down an entire bottle of moonshine on the way to visit the sex-a-torium. The local townsfolk tremble when you pass, fearful of the sudden angry outbursts and your ability to woo almost any woman or man you meet. But beware: your actions have consequences. The sheriff might know you by name, but the local morgue may soon have your picture posted up.

Gatewayers in this category: Simon Yackulic, Alix Kemp, Matt Hirji, Dan McKechnie, Justin “The Vagina Tamer” Bell, Darcy Ropchan

CLINT EASTWOOD (250+)

Congratulations! You are the most sick and depraved individual to walk the land! You beat hookers and dislocate their shoulders before and after church. Fuck cattle rustling, you peddle people and drugs like The Jesse James Gang, all the while shooting a mixture of opium and whisky into your eyeball. The only thing colder and deadlier than you is the rattlesnakes you’ve killed and used as a condom. Which is a good thing because I’m sure you’ve run the gamut of the STIs and passed them on like an infected blanket to the indigenous population. Hold yer’ head high pilgrim, as you are what everyone refers to as Los Grandé Cabrónes con Mas Cajones.

Gatewayers in this category: Nick Frost, Ben Nay, Ali Churchill, Aaron Yeo, Ashleigh Brown

Post your score online at thegatewayonline.ca and compare your score with others!

social intercourse

Another Home Invasion

Directed by Richard Rose

Written by Joan MacLeod

Starring Nicola Lipman

Runs February 12 to March 6 at 7:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. matinée on Sundays

Rice Theatre, The Citadel (9828-101A Avenue)

\$45.15 for students

I know for a fact that there are plenty of you who couldn't care less about Valentine's Day and look to escape the craze over the weekend. If the tub of ice cream and the *Star Wars* movie marathon gets a little tiresome, The Citadel Theatre comes to the rescue with *Another Home Invasion*, a frank, one-woman play about the difficulties that face the elderly in a society that serves them irresponsibly.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra: Love Will Keep Us Together

Friday, February 11 at 8 p.m.

Winspear Centre (Sir Winston Churchill Square)

\$24–81 at the Winspear box office

If a brisk burlesque isn't your idea of a memorable Valentine's Day, then how about a night at the symphony? Not to be painfully mistaken for the Joy Division anthem "Love Will Tear Us Apart" — actually, delivering quite the opposite message — is the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and conductor-pianist Steven Reineke with this Valentine's Day special. If that sounds like your scene, head over to the Winspear Centre on Friday night to catch your — or maybe your mom's — favourite classic love songs, including renditions of "My Heart Will Go On" and "You Raise Me Up."

Oh Susanna! Valentine's Day Special

Saturday, February 12 at 11 p.m.

Varscona Theatre (10329–83 Avenue)

\$10 or \$7 for members

If you're looking for a little flavour in your Valentine's Day weekend, check out the *Oh Susanna!* variety show at the Varscona on Saturday night. Despite taking its name from the California Gold Rush song, this is actually Edmonton's very own euro-style burlesque show where hostess Susanna Patcholi and co-host Eros (yes, the God of Love Cupid himself) will rouse you to laughter and raise you to dance through a night of comedy and music. The spectacle will feature a lovely collection of special guests and an abundance of cocktails to make it all the more hilarious.

Dirty City Hearts

With Axiomatik and Automatic Everything

Saturday, February 12 at 8 p.m.

The Haven Social Club

(15120A Stony Plain Road)

\$10 at the door

If Celine Dion isn't really your style and a night at the theatre simply won't cut it, consider celebrating your love with local talents Dirty City Hearts on Saturday. Armed with an array of musical expression, this three-piece's harder tunes will facilitate the release of your heart's frustration, and their soft, pensive songs perfect for slow dancing in the embrace of your beloved valentine. Or rather, I guess they'd be songs to awkwardly sway to. Either way, bring your lighters, your sweethearts, and your own dirty city hearts for a night devoted to rock 'n' roll and love.

DULGUUN BAYASGALAN
I'm Just a Love Machine



AMIRALISHARIFI

The unhappiest family of Osage County

Adultery and depravity mix with humour at the Citadel for a pristine theatrical experience

theatrereview

August: Osage County

Directed by Bob Baker

Written by Tracy Letts

Starring Fiona Reid and Brenda Robins

The Citadel Theatre (9828-101A Avenue)

Runs until February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

No shows on Mondays

1:30 p.m. matinées on Sundays

\$50.40 at the Citadel box office

ALEX MIGDAL

Arts & Entertainment Staff

"Eat the fish, bitch!"

Such biting, authoritarian words may seem absurd coming from just about anyone, but when a daughter pointedly directs it towards her mother, things get downright ridiculous. Yet, it's a line like this that perfectly encapsulates the essence of *August: Osage County*, a saga of family turmoil that is cataclysmic in its dysfunction.

Having made an enormous impact already on Broadway, *August: Osage County* has finally graced the Citadel's Shocter Theatre, with lofty audience expectations. To say that it has met those expectations is putting it mildly. Simply put, the Citadel's production of the play is theatrical perfection. The landmark production is elevated to near genius by the skilled vision of director Bob Baker and a bevy of masterful performers.

The play's obscure title does little to hint at the wild drama that unfolds on stage throughout its sprawling three-hour span. Set against the countryside backdrop of Pawhuska, Oklahoma, it deals with the tumultuous Weston family, which reunites after the clan patriarch Beverly (John Wright) goes missing. He appears only in the opening scene of the play with his newly

hired caregiver Johanna (Nadien Chu), a Native American woman with saint-like patience and fortitude who quickly proves to be an integral foil to the family's chaos.

Once Bev disappears, the focus shifts to his wife Violet (Fiona Reid), a pill-popping addict with a scathing tongue. She summons the entire family to her house for help, including her three daughters, who each bring along their own families and emotional baggage. Added into the mix are Violet's sister and brother-in-law, leaving the Weston household just a little too crowded for any expectations of normalcy.

August: Osage County won both the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2008 and there's little surprise as to why. Tracy Letts' script is rip-roaringly funny with its razor-sharp wit, yet searing in its stark take on the darkest of familial issues. Dealing with numerous touchy subjects including incest, adultery, and pedophilia, the play could have easily fallen into a trashy, over-the-top tone. But the human component is its saving grace. Each character has such depth that their actions never seem sensationalized. Rather, they seem more like a plea for help.

Fiona Reid is practically the queen of the Citadel at this point, having appeared in multiple productions throughout the past few years. While she has consistently proven to be an excellent actress, this is undoubtedly her finest performance yet. Despite the catfights and scandals that break out amongst the family, it is Violet's issues of trust, addiction, and loneliness that make up the play's emotional core. Reid is entirely convincing in her moments of drugged-up luridness, capable of inciting laughter even in the darkest moments. But she's at her best in her moments of brutal honesty, spitting words out with equal parts venom and heartbreak.

Praise must also be given to Brenda Robins, who is a tour de force as Violet's daughter

Barbara. She executes each of her zingers with a perfect Southern drawl, but also proves to be ferocious in moments of near animalistic intensity. Though to be fair, *August: Osage County* is truly an ensemble piece and, as such, credit must be given to the entire outstanding cast.

In fact, some ensemble scenes are so startlingly authentic you feel as if you're watching your own family on stage. Take, for instance, the typical family dinner scene that is turned upside down in the Weston household. The scene is expertly directed and acted, with all the performers engaged in a whirlwind of different conversations. What makes it truly special, though, is the authenticity of the moment, a reflection of our own families' insanity that makes it difficult to judge the Westons.

Each performer, big or small, plays a fundamental role in the family's gradual downfall. Elizabeth Stepkowski-Tarhan is a particular delight playing the vicious aunt Mattie Fay, as is Jennifer Dzialoszynski, Barbara's pot-smoking daughter Jean. Another character in its own right is the Weston house, a gorgeous three-tiered set cut in half that gives the audience a view of multiple scenes in the different rooms of the residence. The action unwinds flawlessly in the three-dimensional space, fully immersing the audience in all the drama.

There's a touch of irony in the fact that the Citadel is running *August: Osage County* throughout the Valentine's Day period. The play is decidedly as un-Valentine's as they come, with coarse language springing up every few lines and exceptionally mature themes played out. Regardless, the couples that will come out in droves are guaranteed to be satisfied by this immensely powerful play, as are any theatregoers who give this daring work a chance.

Indeed, families, couples, and individuals can learn a lot from *August: Osage County* — such as avoiding the b-word when asking your mother to eat some fish.

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Fitzgerald has no problems wooing the ladies



musicpreview

Michael Bernard Fitzgerald

With Lyra Brown

Saturday February 12 at 8 p.m.

The Starlite Room (10030-102 Street)

\$15 at Blackbyrd and ticketmaster.ca

MADELINE SMITH

Arts & Entertainment Editor

With Valentine's Day around the corner, ladies looking for love may be in luck — Michael Bernard Fitzgerald is on the market.

"There was a while in the summer where on Facebook and Twitter people were asking me to marry them," Fitzgerald says, "But my stock must have gone down or something, because I haven't been proposed to in, like, months. It's actually really sad," he jokes. "I'm just waiting for the right sugar mama, you know what I mean? Because I want to marry someone that will take care of me — I need a girl that comes with benefits." Fitzgerald pauses, then laughs. "Yeah, we'll turn this article into a personals ad!"

The Calgary singer-songwriter doesn't need an ad to make the girls come running — Fitzgerald's songs promise all the classic romance you could ever want, including "Care For You," a bubbly pop song full of chivalrous promises to whisk his date away in a limo for the perfect night of her dreams.

But if you happen to catch one of Fitzgerald's live performances, you'll discover that he isn't necessarily all about the endearing folk-pop singles — he's just as likely to bust out his own rendition of "The Thong Song" by Sisqo.

"I'll bring some new covers out [on this tour]," Fitzgerald laughs. "I kinda like that new Ke\$ha jam — that's embarrassing to admit."

Fitzgerald's live show is always taking new forms. He's passed through Edmonton multiple times in the last year, playing everything from a solo acoustic set at last summer's SOS Fest to a massive concert with a full horn section and choir backing him up. This time around, in addition to the traditional no-minors appearance at the Starlite Room, Fitzgerald is offering a series of all-ages "Heavy Chevy" shows for a handful of people to hang out in the back of his tour van while he plays a few tunes.

"The evening show at the Starlite is two drummers, three singers, horns, and everything — it's a big show," Fitzgerald explains. "But then in the van, we do this 45-minute hangout, and we just play acoustic songs. We've got a small PA in there and 13 people fit, so it's really cool."

"I want to marry someone that will take care of me — I need a girl that comes with benefits."

MICHAEL BERNARD FITZGERALD

The common thread for Fitzgerald's performances, though, no matter where they take place, is their emphasis on positivity. It's tough to find a song anywhere in Fitzgerald's catalogue that might be considered sad — a deliberate choice on Fitzgerald's part.

"I don't have much to be sad about," he says. "I think, especially when you play songs live, I'd rather have a fun time than have us all crying. And then you need to bring Kleenex every night so people can wipe their tears. And then the whole show just becomes a support system."

"I'd rather people just dance and relax. The week is tough enough, you know?"

A hopeful light on the other side of the *Rabbit Hole*

theatrepreview

Rabbit Hole

Directed by Kristen Finlay

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire

Starring Joyce LaBriola, Daniel Summers, Ameila Maciejewski-Duplessis, Francie Goodwin-Davies, and Graham Mothersill

Walterdale Playhouse (10322-83 Avenue)

Runs until February 19 at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. No evening show on February 13 and 14

\$12-16, available at TIX-on-the-Square or at the door

NATALIA KNOWLTON

Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you've ever been lucky enough to experience theatrical catharsis — a cleansing of emotions — you know the feeling: powerful, unexpected, and at times even confusing. But it makes theatre exciting, and when you encounter it, you know you've been given a gift. Kristen Finlay, the artistic director of the Walterdale Playhouse, knew she'd found the feeling in *Rabbit Hole* from the first time she read the play.

"I don't often cry when I'm reading a play. I'll cry when I see one, but [with *Rabbit Hole*], I was sobbing," Finlay says. "Not because of the melodrama, but because it was just so real. I'm a mother myself; I have two small children, and so I think a part of it was that I connected on that level."

Rabbit Hole tells the story of Becca and Howie, a married couple torn by the difficulties they face after the death of their young son. Not only does the couple struggle to connect through their different experiences of grief, they also face difficulties maintaining other family relationships. Having said that, the main challenge for every character is to get back to their normal lives, which becomes a frustrating and never-ending journey.

"It's about how everyone grieves in their own way, and how sometimes, you don't grieve in the way you expect to," Finlay explains. "Seeking



DARCY ROPCHAN

a sense of normal again when there is no real normal anymore and trying to get back to how you thought before, but now you're never going to be able to."

Finlay's personal experiences as a wife and mother also enabled her to have a more authentic vision of the play while directing, and having friends who have gone through the experience of losing a child brought a sense of sensitivity and understanding to her work.

"I know once I had my first child, the thought that anything would happen to him — just the thought of it seizes your heart," Finlay explains. "There are times [in a relationship] when you don't know how to communicate and you have to struggle through that. I think I brought my knowledge both when you're communicating well and you're not communicating as well."

Finlay's own views undoubtedly affected her vision of the production, but the script also

coloured her view of motherhood. One especially emotional reaction for her was during a scene in *Rabbit Hole* where Becca criticizes mothers who are not mentally present with their children.

"[The scene has] gotten me to think about how I can be a little more present with my kids," Finlay notes. "Regardless of their life, they're only that age for a little while. Being present and recognizing that moment of their life has certainly become a lot more important, or brought to the forefront how I think about my relationship with them."

In addition to Finlay's feelings about the play, the actors' personal experiences became particularly valuable to the production. However, with a story as emotionally draining as *Rabbit Hole*, the rehearsal process had to be approached with caution. As a director, Finlay kept this in mind when planning cast practices.

"We certainly had to really be emotionally

supportive for each other because it's hard to live with this kind of a story for several months," says Finlay. "I didn't push early on for taking high emotional risks [...] You don't want them going home to their loved ones emotionally drained or sobbing. We started doing check-ins and check-outs at the end of rehearsals so that we could emotionally release."

Surprisingly enough, the themes of death and grief in *Rabbit Hole* are balanced by elements of humour and hope. This was not just important for the cast as they dealt with the emotional piece for months, but it will become refreshing for audiences as well.

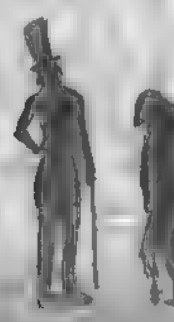
"[The play is] really about grief and relationships and finding a new normal. It's quite funny, and it actually ends quite hopeful in terms of that journey to a new normal. Anybody who's been touched by grief in any way would relate and connect to it."

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Lost in The Deep Dark Woods

musicpreview

The Deep Dark Woods

With Wool on Wolves and The Provincial Archive
Friday, February 11 at 7 p.m.
Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)
\$17.50 at Blackbyrd, Listen Records, and foundationconcerts.com

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The Deep Dark Woods' vocalist Ryan Boldt may be living in 2011 on the flat prairies of Saskatchewan, but his heart belongs in 1950s Memphis, Tennessee. His band plays a blend of folk music that incorporates rock 'n' roll elements to create a distinctly Canadian sound. That being said, he wants to make sure that potential listeners first understand what kind of music his band is not.

"It's a mix of a lot of different things," says Boldt, clearly struggling to define his band. "I guess you would call that rock and roll music — not like Nickelback, though. Rock and roll music doesn't mean the same thing that it used to. You have to split it up into subgenres nowadays, or else people might think you sound like Theory of a Deadman if you say

you play rock music."

After hearing their music, few people would make that mistake. Instead, The Deep Dark Woods would fit more comfortably alongside fellow Canadian bands The Sadies and Cuff the Duke, who also tend to focus on more classic sounds.

When it comes to discussing the roots of the music he's making, Boldt's demeanour slightly perks up in what seems to be his laid-back version of excitement. His love for Bob Dylan and Jerry Lee Lewis comes across more in his words than his voice, but he produces an almost audible smile when talking about their upcoming tour plans.

"We are playing the Folk Alliance Festival in Memphis. I have never been there before, so I'm really excited for that. I've always wanted to go there; it's the home of Sun Records, the home of Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash — [even] BB King recorded there," Boldt says. "Everything that I love is around that area."

Boldt lives in rural Saskatchewan in the small village of Mortlach. His choice of home is a conscious one; the singer's eccentric tendencies stretch beyond his passionate love of classic country like Merle Haggard. He chooses to make his home in an isolated area of a sparsely populated

province while fronting a touring rock band, instead of a music hub like Toronto or Vancouver.

"I like the isolation. I like knowing there's not many people around. I like being alone," Boldt says. "For me to write music, I need that — I can't have much of a social life. I can't go out all the time and hang out every night. I have to really sit at home to do that."

"There are only 240 people here; it's real small," he continues. "I don't think anybody around here even knows anything about the music that I play. I keep to myself around here, so I don't really know what they think. I hope that they would like it, but some of them would probably find things a little odd over at this house."

The Deep Dark Woods music is purposefully not radio friendly. Vocalist Boldt's love of classic country, folk, and rockabilly music blends with his rock leanings to create moody alternative country music that owes a lot to music released half a century ago. But if he were to ever sell out, he knows exactly how he'd do it.

"I guess if there was a million dollars in it for me, I might think of recording with Taylor Swift, but I'd have to sell my soul to Satan first," Boldt says. "And I'm not really willing to do that."



CJSR CHARTS FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 7, 2011

1. SERVICE:FAIR - IT ENDED BADLY
2. MIESHA AND THE SPANKS - GODS OF LOVE
3. MOGWAI - HARDWARE WILL NEVER DIE, BUT YOU WILL
4. SPRING BREAKUP - IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME
5. DESTROYER - KAPUTT
6. DEERHOOF - DEERHOOF VS. EVIL
7. VARIOUS - GREAT NORTHERN REVIVAL: NOTES FROM THE EDMONTON UNDERGROUND VOL. 2
8. BRAIDS - NATIVE SPEAKER
9. THE MITTS - COLLECTED RECORDINGS
10. WOOL ON WOLVES - GREY MATTER
11. OLD SINS / SLATES - SPLIT 7"
12. MICHAEL RAULT - MA ME O
13. THE RIGORMORTICIANS - DEMONS TO FEED
14. THE DECEMBERISTS - THE KING IS DEAD
15. ANNIE MOLAN - TO BE KIND

NEWS & EVENTS

*Don't forget to tune
in to the Top 30
every Wednesday
from 9-11am right
here on CJSR
FM 88.5!*



albumreview

The Olympic Symphonium

The City Won't Have Time To Fight
Forward Music Group

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

Over the past 15 years, the Canadian music scene has churned out enough delicate folk music to make your head spin faster than a 78 rpm record. Bands ranging from The Wooden Sky to Great Lake Swimmers have mastered a formula that captures the intimate mood of a mid-summer's camping trip in the shadowy boreal forests.

While many have tried, there are very few bands that can add a splash of colour to the sounds

of a saturated pond.

It may not re-invent the wheel, but The Olympic Symphonium's third album, *The City Won't Have Time To Fight*, goes a long way to advancing a genre that's been burning its last embers. While many bands have suffered from tunnel vision attempting to emulate the dour sounds of their Canadian folk forefathers, the key ingredient in *The City's* success is in the record's initial conception.

The album is the brainchild of five multi-instrumentalists hailing from Fredericton, N.S. Recorded in just over a week, the album's production was purposefully constrained to juxtapose their previously drawn-out recording technique.

The result is an album that feels unbolted. Each chord change on the guitar resonates effortlessly with the dusty melodies that could only be created through the fleeting moments of inspiration that come along with working on the clock.

Apropos to the album's title, the artists behind *The City* never fought with it at all.

And, in doing so, The Olympic Symphonium have created an endearing album that, while being overshadowed by the towering names in its genre, nevertheless brings a shimmer of light to the overloaded forest.

An ode to the anti-love song



A&E
STAFF

Group
Commentary

If you happen to be spending Valentine's Day on your own, you're going to need to do something to distract yourself. To help you avoid the traditional pint of Ben & Jerry's and vapid chick-flick marathon, *The Gateway* has some suggestions for your sad, single playlist to remind you of the reasons why sucks anyways.

Matt Meuse

Betrayal is a painful feeling at the best of times, but betrayal by a lover cuts even deeper — so deep that we may feel that the entire concept of romantic love is nothing more than an empty pretense, little more than people opportunistically getting their rocks off, with any resemblance to mutual caring and goodwill an unfortunate coincidence.

Nowhere has this sentiment been put into song more poignantly than in Dr. Dre's 1992 sleeper hit "Bitches Ain't Shit." Nowhere else is the Death Row G-funk crew's message of male solidarity and independence as crystal clear as in the rallying cry of this song, this anthem for scorned lovers everywhere, this battle hymn for the romantically disillusioned.

Dre implores us to not be fooled by the façade of love, suggesting that anything more complicated than carnal passion will ultimately lead to nothing but misery. The jewel in this song's crown, however, is the sincere, soul-baring verse from the poet Snoop Doggy Dogg, recounting his own painful betrayal at the hands of his lover and someone he once considered a close friend, making the experience sting all the more terribly to the core of his very being.

Truly, these men are masters of their craft.

Kory Orban

Ever been chillin' with your home-boys as someone cornrows your hair, when the object of your affection starts chirping to you about rumours being spread by some "old, jealous, no-man-havin'-ass hoes?" No? Well, R. Kelly has, and he's nice enough to step out of the closet and share it with the world in his song "Real Talk."

Which really isn't so much a song as it is R. Kelly's side of a brutal lover's spat that he serenades us with. On a side note to debate clubs everywhere, try singing your arguments. It may not make you more right, but it will definitely make you more awesome. Real talk.

Digressions aside, if you have a Valentine's Day blowout with your significant other, fuck it. Throw on some R. Kelly and let him piss on you — I mean, sing to you. Put the keys in the ignition and start to bounce, bounce, bounce. Real talk.

If you're in need of an anti-Valentine's Day anthem, look no further. "Real Talk" is the perfect love song antithesis. It highlights how even after you give your mate "money to get [their] hair, toes, and nails done," they will get on your case about something stupid even though you "got enough bullshit on your mind." Why even bother to spend the day being all lovey-dovey when your relationship will inevitably erupt into a red-in-the-face, screaming, crying argument? Don't bother — put your boy Kels on blast and listen to some real-ass mothafuckin' talk.

Carole Yue

Panic! At the Disco's verbosely titled track "There's A Good Reason These Tables Are Numbered Honey, You Just Haven't Thought of It Yet" offers mockery and revenge in the trappings of snappy cabaret baroque rock. Brendon Urie's barbs at his presumed-to-be ex-lover are witty and confidence-shattering — "I'm the new cancer/ Never looked better/ And you can't stand it" — offering a side serving of ex-smiting for the more discontented lovers among us.

Like the icing on an explosive cake, Urie reveals he has laced the cigarettes of the song's venue with nitroglycerin and spiked the punch. Not only has the ex-lover just received an impossible verbal wallop, but her body is probably going to take a wallop, too.

All this wholesome revenge is yours to own, along with a catchy, vaudeville beat, rich in percussion and brass. Unlike typical break-up songs (think Justin Timberlake's "Cry Me a River"), "There's a Good Reason..." manages to deliver vengeance while also making you smirk and snap your fingers simultaneously. And if the image of your ex-lover's remains splattered all over a seedy cabaret lounge isn't enough to cheer you up, then you're beyond hope and should

probably consider the next stage of heartbreak: eating your feelings.

Dan McKechnie

The Postal Service's "Nothing Better" is the platonic ideal of a breakup song. Crisp, poppy beats and a cheerful melody disguise lyrics that map a relationship in rapid decline. It's great commiseration music for when your significant other says, "I think we should talk."

Ben Gibbard's forlorn pleas for another chance are met with cold pragmatism by Jen Wood, who sings "Your heart won't heal right if you keep tearing out the sutures." Wood is correct, of course, but it's much easier to get onside with Gibbard when you've recently had your heart broken. Gibbard's resigned tone and the final way that Woods sings, "Say goodbye" on the very last note, don't leave any room for illusions, however; this is a breakup song, not a last-chance ballad.

"Am I right to think that there could be nothing better/than making you my bride and slowly growing old together" rings painfully true when you're on the receiving end of "it's not you, it's me."

Dustin Blumhagen

Early in high school, I learned the most important lesson of my life from Matt Skiba. His band Alkaline Trio taught me that girls will consistently break your heart. They are cruel, callous, and just downright mean. They will lead you on until you give them your heart, which they will quickly tear from your chest and smash into small squishy pieces of bloody meat.

But the band also taught me that instead of just sitting around crying my guyliner off like a skinny emo kid, the best way to deal with the sad state of reality was to combine heavy drug use with constant alcohol consumption and vivid daydreams about revenge.

Their song "Radio" perfectly captures the brutal reality of love with its first line, riding what is possibly the catchiest bass riff ever recorded: "Shaking like a dog shitting razor-blades/waking up next to nothing after dreaming of me and you."

Skiba knows what it feels to have your heart broken by some malevolent bitch, and he feels every ounce of your pain. So next time you see one of those stupid Valentine's Day ads, follow his advice: get drunk, light a smoke, and plot revenge.

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LikeALittle
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WAYNE SIMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When cloaked by internet anonymity, many, many people devolve into snarky, abusive trolls. For a good number of years, I too trawled the internet, crushing the self-esteem of many a 12-year-old and implying sexual relations with more mothers than physically possible. Then I stumbled upon Like a Little (L.A.).

The premise of the site is simple enough — you see an attractive person on campus and, lacking liquid courage, fail to strike up a conversation. In the pre-internet age, this would be the

conclusion of most potential relationships. But now, you shrug it off and get on L.A.

The site is an anonymous chat forum geared towards the ever-connected generation, bringing your object of affection out from being the subject of a mere Facebook status into an anonymous post that he or she might actually see. The site itself is crisp and simple. You note the gender, hair colour, and location of the admired person you're gazing at, type in a quick message/description, and press the "Boom!" button. Literally. The button says "Boom!"

This post then goes on a Twitter-like wall for the specific location, such as the U of A, and can be extremely specific. Such as "At SUB Fireplace: Female, Blonde. 4 hrs ago, made eye contact a couple times. You probably don't know this site exists, but you were a great distraction from

studying.:"

It sounds pretty boring, but hey, this is the internet. It may look like a hub of prepubescent double entendres, but look closer and you'll see it's lined with the cyber-equivalent of Russian sable fur.

During finals season last semester, there was a thread that lasted for almost 90 messages. You get to directly message anyone who posts, there's hardly any spam, and there's a rudimentary Android app in existence (iPhone app coming soon, apparently). Plus, there are some pretty heartwarming testimonials up, though they're all sadly from other campuses.

So thank you, L.A. creators. I have now moved on from internet trolling to excessively fawning over attractive females who are in my immediate vicinity through an online web service. And, quite shockingly, it's not porn.



Cradle of Filth needs clean crib

Guitarist Paul Allender vents about math metal and a messy rehearsal space

musicpreview

Cradle of Filth

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GABBY RICHES
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It might seem like a safe bet to assume the members of gothic metal band Cradle of Filth are entirely nocturnal. But surprisingly enough, lead guitarist Paul Allender answers the phone in the middle of the afternoon as he gears up to go on tour to promote the band's new album.

Released in 2010, *Darkly, Darkly, Venus Aversa* is Cradle of Filth's way of getting in touch with their origins, combining new sounds with their early material.

"Oftentimes, fans and interviewers ask me where the new album fits within our catalogue, and I think it could easily go right after *Dusk... and her Embrace*," Allender says, referring to the band's sophomore 1994 offering.

The last few Cradle releases have been concept albums, and their new offering doesn't stray from this formula. Allender himself acknowledges the difficulty of being well-versed in the particular theme of any album.

"It's hard for us to know the themes because we usually write the music

first and then [lead singer] Dani Filth puts the lyrics on afterwards. So we don't know if it's going to be a concept album or not."

The UK-based band have been producing ear-piercing symphonic black metal for more than two decades. But according to Allender, the current standing of their country's metal scene is more unappealing than burnt Yorkshire pudding.

then it suddenly changes. I can't be bothered with that nonsense."

Considering the band's elaborate costumes, heavy makeup, and large entourage of musicians, it seems like there'd be a significant amount of time spent backstage preparing. In actuality, the only pre-show ritual that Cradle of Filth engages in is making sure they're physically present.

"We're now entering into this new world of 'math metal' — it's just ridiculous. [...] They have totally lost all feel for the music. Instead, it's all about numbers and divisions. That's not what metal is about."

PAUL ALLENDER
GUITARIST, CRADLE OF FILTH

"It has completely gone to shit," Allender pronounces sardonically. "There's nothing here. We're now entering into this new world of 'math metal' — it's just ridiculous. How many broken-up rhythmic sections can I play to confuse people so they think I'm clever?"

"They have totally lost all feel for the music," Allender continues. "Instead, it's all about numbers and divisions. That's not what metal is about. I've been to a couple of gigs like that. I look around at the audience and think, 'And you're really getting off on this?' Give me a break! There is no groove in it. Once you get onto one rhythm, you start bobbing your head, and

"Literally, our tour manager wakes us up half an hour before we have to go on stage," Allender explains.

"We quickly down a coffee, put on our makeup, and then walk on stage. I just cannot understand why so many people take long to get ready," he laughs.

The band may seem unconcerned with the way they look, but Allender draws the line when it comes to rehearsal space — even metal royalty needs somewhere organized to make music.

"Our rehearsal room is a complete shithole," complains Allender. "We share the space with some local bands and they make a right mess; they're disgusting pigs."

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Michael Rault
Ma-Me-O
Pirates Blend

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VS

Sarah Cripps
Practice
Independent



KEVIN LEE PINKOSKI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

Musicians want to be old. Old musicians have everything: piles of life experiences, die-hard fans, sporadic tours and festival appearances, criminal records, and the ability to make songs about absolutely anything that everyone will still absolutely love.

Because of this, young musicians Michael Rault and Sarah Cripps both have a bad case of the desire to be mature, and their newest albums, *Ma-Me-O* and *Practice* respectively, exhibit that perfectly.

But there can only be one grown-up youngster, and this album battle is going to out which musician is the real senior.

Most Grown-up Album Cover

Michael Rault: With a big picture of himself in Ray-Ban sunglasses and flowing hippie hair, Rault is looking like a real blast from the past.

Sarah Cripps: Catching high levels of emotion, Cripps also has a picture of herself on the front, although she is looking a little too serious, leaving me wondering if her album cover is just a mirror pic taken off her Nexopia account.

Verdict: Rault takes it. By covering his eyes in sunglasses, he is more or

less ageless — how experienced.

Most Old-Timey Track Title

Rault: “Lay Right Down and Die” Sounds like Rault had the whole world on his shoulders too long and just can’t take it anymore. Either he dies, or he relaxes at an old folks home.

Cripps: “Getaway Car” Since the LRT expansion finished, our choice of getaway vehicles has increased significantly. Cripps’ choice of getaway vehicles is definitely a dirty ‘30s throwback.

Verdict: Cripps wins this one — she makes like a grandpa and connects with stories of Al Capone. How passé.

Most Antiquated Lyrics

Rault: Just like your stubborn grandpa, in the song “I Don’t Need No Help Getting Down,” Rault argues that he needs “no help getting down / and no help getting low.” He probably doesn’t listen to his children’s pleas to start using a walker, either — the man is set in his ways and fiercely independent.

Cripps: In the song “You Got Me,” Cripps admits she can “see a past / I can’t remember.” Sounds like a textbook case of long-term memory loss. But when she sings, “It’s the end that’s missing,” she admits to having short-term memory loss as well.

Verdict: Rault takes this one by denying help from any over-zealous Boy Scouts, destroying their chances of

ever getting the coveted “Assisting the Elderly” badge. How grizzled.

Oldest Sound-a-like Doppelganger

Rault: Sounds like a skinny yet more upbeat version of the Blues Brothers, but without the back-up singers. Combined age of Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi: 119.

Cripps: Sounds like a worn-out Gwyneth Paltrow in the hit film *Country Strong*. Paltrow is 38.

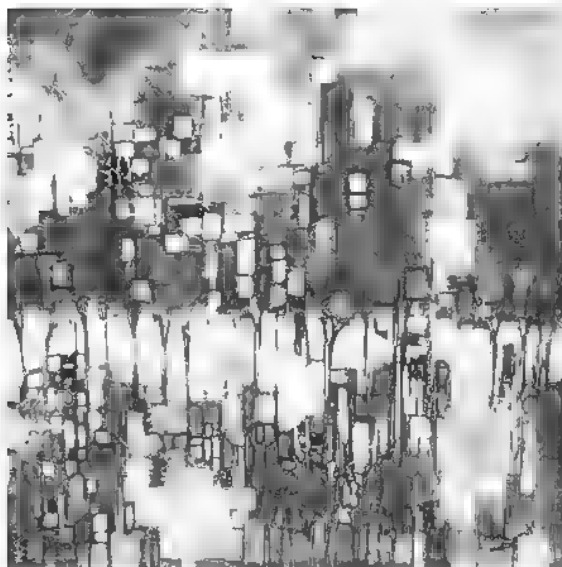
Verdict: Can’t beat the math — Rault takes it again. How educated.

Bonus Round

Both Cripps and Rault get one bonus point each for giving out black CDs that look like little shrunken records. Rault gets another bonus point because his mini-record has the 33 and 1/3 rotation speed listed right on it. Unfortunately, Cripps loses her bonus point for putting her website, email address, and Twitter handle on her CD, a critical error that reveals her true age. Rault snags one more bonus point for giving out fake Polaroids with his album — fake black-and-white polaroids.

Final Verdict

With a final score of five to one, in this album battle Rault proves to be the most grown-up. Don’t feel too awkward if he goes on a date with your mother, because aside from his catchy tunes and original rhythms, he really is extremely mature for his age.



albumreview

Us & Others
Patchwork
Independent

ALANA WILLERTON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

We all know how it feels to listen to a new band for the first time — we’re uncertain if the band will be able hold a long-term position in our music library, or if they’ll simply be yet another one-hit wonder. Sometimes we’re even a little bit embarrassed to admit that we actually like the band, forging a secret guilty pleasure. In the case of Us & Others, a group whose debut has been in the making

for most of the last three years, we are left with a promising first impression that will undoubtedly surprise many.

For a band that prides themselves on their eclectic sound, Us & Others’ first album *Patchwork* may seem repetitious at first.

However, a closer listen to the subtle differences found in each individual song provides evidence of intriguing

lyrics and a sound that is difficult to pinpoint to just a single genre.

Demonstrating their sombre side, Us & Others also shows off their more uptempo rock aspects with numbers about lost love like “Too Late” and “Burning Up.”

“Wishing It Away,” arguably the stand-out song of the album, is hauntingly powerful thanks to its halting delivery of the chorus: “Bright lights keep shining in my eyes and / I’ve been blindsided trying to keep a hold on all I had / trying to grab a hold of changing hands.”

Ultimately, *Patchwork* proves to be an unexpected musical experience that you may not have anticipated enjoying, but that you’ll find yourself immediately immersed and caught up in just the same.



albumreview

The Liptonians
Let’s All March Back Into The Sea
Head In the Sand

JON GRIER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This hipster rock group hailing from Manitoba — or maybe planet Lipton — make a bitter-sounding soup out of their first album. The theme of the record seems to bounce between jaded songs about urban life and a freer-feeling nature, especially involving water. But there’s no great difference between the way the two settings are made to sound — it feels like winter all over, no

matter where you are.

However, the album isn’t without its parallels to a few mainstream groups. “Terrel’s Dream,” while not deviating from the cloudy urban theme, feels a lot like an Elton John song with its variety of keyboards. “Lesage” sounds like a Billy Idol-esque ballad to a piano.

The standout track is “Growing Old in the City,” which you might

imagine hearing in a dockside bar surrounded by roughnecks drinking away on any given weeknight. The song’s bridge builds from a quiet mutter to an enormous group vocal shouting the chorus. It’s enough to make you want to be in that bar as part of the spectacle.

Also worth noting is the eclectic change of the instruments from track to track. One song never sounds quite the same as the last, even if the tone stays steady. One song might feature MIDI melodies and drum samples, while the next will have a brass section mixed in with the electric guitar.

With an album that feels this overcast, the constant change in pace will at least keep your attention from wandering too far.

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FILEPHOTOS: ARMAND LUDNICK, MATT HIRJI

Varsity bids farewell to their home court

After 53 years in the Main Gym, Bears look to create new legacies

***basketball*preview**

Bears vs. Calgary Dinos

February 11-12, both at 8 p.m.
Main Gym

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

Although they'll be paying tribute to a venue that has fostered their past triumphs over the years, the Court Bears will set their sights on establishing themselves as a team of the future when they tip-off against the Calgary Dinos this weekend.

Emotions will be running at full steam this weekend. With retired head coach Don Horwood, who was with the program for 26 years, in attendance, the Bears will hope to make an impact on the home crowd during their final regular season games in the Main Gym.

But the Bears have vaulted into a new era. Adopting a new identity dedicated to quick, aggressive style of play the young Bears are putting on a brave face as they continue to grow under the watchful eye of the dynamic second year head coach Greg Francis. While respecting the past, Francis has demanded a break from the traditions — instituting new ideology that has positioned his squad properly for the future.

"It's been a great home gym for the program. But right now, there is a mixture of the history with, 'Hey I think there is something new here.' Our team is really opening eyes," Francis said. "People are noticing that there is a cool, young team on the horizon. When guys play with their hearts, like they've been doing recently, everybody will continue to appreciate their effort and their ability."

With their confidence shaken after dropping two games on the road to the Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend, the Bears will hope to

harness the energy inside the Main Gym this weekend to get back on course. The Bears will need to sweep their series with the Dinos to guarantee themselves a playoff home stand at the end of the month.

But the Dinos won't go down easy. Similar to the Court Bears last season, the Calgary squad is comprised of a large contingent of young talent. The Red and White have played the role of the perennial underdog this season, knocking down any opponent that dares to take them lightly, an explosive team with seven athletes in their first or second year. The key for the Bears this weekend will be to play with vigour from the outset to shackle the Dinos hopes of claiming a surprise victory.

"I want to see how my team reacts playing with high emotion. It's something that will be a big challenge for us, but if we are going to do as well as I think we can do in the playoffs, it's going to be about handling situations like this," Francis said. "I'm always interested in how the guys are going to respond, but I don't think it's going to be hard to coach my team if they are really pumped to play. Dialing it back a bit is always easier than trying to get guys to come out."

For the two graduating seniors, C.G Morrison and Graeme Mitchell, wearing the Green and Gold jersey for their last regular season game will certainly be an emotional experience. However, as Morrison explained, it's a rare opportunity for the duo to pay respect to the support they've received as a varsity athlete while trailblazing a path for the team into a bright future.

"After the game on Saturday there will certainly be mixed feelings," Morrison said, reflecting on his tenure playing for the Green and Gold. "It will be sad to say goodbye to the Main Gym, but we have a lot more to accomplish. If we can win a couple games this weekend, we will be in a good position."

Pandas hope to harness memories in search of CIS post-season

***basketball*preview**

Pandas vs. Calgary Dinos

February 11-12, both at 6 p.m.
Main Gym

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

The stakes are high for the court Pandas this weekend as they tip off against the Calgary Dinos in their final regular season series in the Main Gym.

Hoping to bid a proper goodbye to a facility that has been home to the Pandas basketball team since they moved to the Main Gym in 1958 from Athabasca Hall, the Pandas will look to catapult themselves in the upcoming post-season. A pair of wins this weekend against the Dinos will guarantee the northern Alberta squad a top-four spot in the Canada West division and the privilege of hosting a playoff series at the end of February. As Pandas head coach Scott Edwards explained, to clinch a home playoff berth against the Calgary Dinos would be the ultimate acknowledgement of a venue that has promoted the development of the women's basketball program at the U of A for more than 50 years.

"If you can't get up to play Calgary, you don't deserve to play at Alberta," Edwards said. "Obviously there are very healthy rivalries in the country and this is one of them. This is a big weekend not just because of the rivalry but also because it's our last regular season weekend in the Main Gym. I think everybody wants to remember this place fondly and we want to win those games just to see the old lady out."

The Pandas will need to pull out all the stops for success this weekend. After dropping a pair of games to the Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend, the Green and Gold are barely maintaining a grip on a season that began with high expectations. A hurricane of injuries cut the

squad's active roster to a paltry eight athletes. With many players forced to play extended minutes and on several occasions, entire games, without taking a rest, the Evergreen and Gold's confidence is diminishing.

"February seems to be a weird month for teams. Getting back into school, it's crappy weather on the prairies. It's not a great time of year physically for everybody. There is probably a research paper out there somewhere that talks about athletes and weather. So I find January a difficult month at the best of times for our athletes — they are stressed from school, weather, and then the games themselves become way more important. To do it with lower numbers probably adds to their stress."

An energetic, hard-working Dinos squad that has been a handful in the Canada West division this season will push the Green and Gold's fatigued roster this weekend. Rotating 12 players throughout the course of the game, the Calgary squad will test the Pandas' athleticism and zone defence proficiency.

With a short bench, the responsibility for containing the Dinos rests on a few players. This unique dynamic allows Edwards to simplify his coaching method and call upon individual players to take responsibility for their mistakes while taking pride in their successes — a technique that Edwards hopes will increase the team's resilience heading into the post-season.

"With less players in games, it's pretty easy to coach. Rotations are super simple, and game planning is pretty easy because you aren't talking in general terms to groups of players. You are talking to individual people," Edwards said. "It's kind of fun to coach that way and for the athletes to know that it comes down to them — it becomes a personal challenge."

"We're at the point in our season where we need to play with every bullet in the gun. We've got to find a way to win. Now is our time. We'll make new memories next year in the Go Centre."

Proudfoot sets up Pandas glory

Veteran national champion humbled by her tenure wearing the Alberta uniform

volleyball profile

Tiffany Proudfoot

Pandas Volleyball

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

"I'd like to be remembered as the stupid rookie that I was when I came in," Tiffany Proudfoot, a graduating senior for the University of Alberta Pandas volleyball team explained, with a brave tear in her eye after her final regular season home game last weekend against the Saskatchewan Huskies.

An ankle injury sustained the previous day may have spelled the end of Proudfoot's prolific career as a varsity athlete. But it wasn't supposed to happen this way. Her final farewell was supposed to be capped off with a return to the national championship game — something the Calgary native achieved in her first year with the Pandas volleyball team.

"At university, you start to appreciate people for who they are. Everybody is different and you just need to accept people and be open to how they perceive the world."

TIFFANY PROUDFOOT
PANDAS VOLLEYBALL

"It's a little emotional," Proudfoot explained. "I guess it was just really unexpected. I didn't really plan to be out obviously. It was tough to watch."

Proudfoot's helplessness is understandable. She's been a huge presence in her five-year career with the Pandas, giving the team a new direction and driving it towards excellence. Now, forced to the sidelines, the prolific left-side hitter is consoled only by her memories of the past five years competing for the squad.

Teaming up with right-side hitter Krista Zubic, Proudfoot has led the Pandas to a third-place standing in the ultra-competitive Canada West division this season. In just 56 sets, Proudfoot has claimed an astonishing 156 kills with a consistency and work ethic rivaled by very few varsity athletes in Canada.

But Proudfoot was only able to take her team so far. After rolling her ankle in the third set on Friday evening, her hopes of leading her team into the post-season for the last time may quickly vanish. And as head coach Laurie Eisler said, the shocking realization is something that many fifth years experience in their final games as a varsity athlete for the Pandas.

"I think for fifth-years it's just the unbelievable reality, kind of the shock that it's all coming to an end," Eisler explained. "Their identity is so much wrapped up in who they are as an athlete. It goes so fast. In the first year it might drag a little bit because it's so hard, and so much is expected of you. But then before you know it, it's your fifth year. The emotion comes from the memories and the realization that this is it."



FILE PHOTOS: AARON YEO, MATT HIRJI

Proudfoot has nothing to be ashamed of. Always in competition with her two older brothers, Proudfoot played her youth volleyball in Calgary before being recruited to play in the starting line up for the Pandas in her first year. While many rookie varsity athletes need time to adjust to their new surroundings and navigate their place on the team, Proudfoot became an integral member of the Green and Gold national championship campaign in her first year on campus — cementing her legacy as a Panda with three jump-spin serves in the national semifinal match.

"I think that was the first time that she really defined herself as a Panda," Eisler said, recalling the five-set nail biter that launched the Pandas to their seventh national championship. "It was in Calgary's gym — her hometown — against the University of Calgary, the team that she played all her club volleyball with. It was packed.

You could not hear yourself think in there, and she is serving in the fifth set with her jump-spin serve. It was the first time that she showed the kind of player she is. It was right there where she said, 'this is the kind of player I am. I love the pressure.'"

While Proudfoot may not be able to step onto the court to face the pressure of a varsity game again, she is consoled by the lessons learned during her tenure at the University of Alberta — adopting a positive worldview that will remain years after her tenure wearing number 10 for the Green and Gold.

"At university, you start to appreciate people for who they are," Proudfoot said. "You meet so many people playing and at school; it's just a lot easier if you understand that everybody comes from somewhere and you have to work with them. Everybody is different and you just have to accept people and be open to understanding how they perceive the world."

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After striking out for the third time in a row, self-absorbed baseball legend Rickey Henderson was overheard saying, "Don't worry Rickey, you're still the best."

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We're holding a contest devoted to finding the best short fiction and photography that students on this campus have to offer. This contest is open to any U of A student who's decent at prose or can click a picture, and who isn't already a Gateway volunteer. Winners will have their entries published in a late March issue of the Gateway, and there'll even be some awesome prizes to be given away.

Entries will be judged on both creativity and style by a panel of editors. Submissions must be original and must not have been published elsewhere. **Please submit entries to literarycontest@gateway.ualberta.ca with the subject head "Gateway Literary Contest."** and the category you're entering. Please include your name, program, and year with your entry. Contestants may only enter each category once.

PRIZES! FAME! NOT SO MUCH FORTUNE! BUT PRIZES!

Ice Bears regain footing after historic losing streak

hockey roundup

Bears vs. Regina Cougars

EVAN DAUM
Sports Staff

It was back to business as usual for the number-three ranked Golden Bears hockey squad this past weekend, snapping a three-game losing streak with a pair of wins over the lowly Regina Cougars at Clare Drake Arena.

third period of the Friday night game, we played good, smart games, and moved the puck well — especially tonight.”

It was a well-rounded weekend for the Green and Gold. Coming off a bye week, Thurston debuted a new-look line-up against Regina, including four new line combinations and a trio of new defensive pairings. Those lineup changes included the splitting up the conference’s top scorers — Chad Klassen and Derek Ryan — who had played on the same line since day one of the regular season.

“We had to change things up, because losing three games in a row,



FILE PHOTO: PETER HOLMES

“We had to change things up because losing three games in a row [...] we had to do something. So far, so good.”

ERIC THURSTON
HEAD COACH, BEARS HOCKEY

The Bears entered the weekend mired in the team’s longest losing streak in more than a decade, dropping three straight games for the first time since 1996. Regina would prove to be just what the Bears needed to snap their skid, with the defending conference champions earning a sweep thanks to a 5-3 win Friday night, and a 4-1 victory the following night that could’ve been far more lopsided.

“Tonight I thought we worked hard, getting 50-plus shots through,” Bears head coach Eric Thurston said Saturday. “I thought other than the

and just being the way we were since Christmas — always splitting and not putting our best game forward like we need to — we had to do something. So far, so good,” Thurston said.

“I was hesitant, but in the end it had to be a necessary move,” Thurston said of splitting up Klassen and Ryan. “There’s nothing untouchable when we’re not playing well.”

With their momentum moving back in the right direction, the focus for Green and Gold is now squarely on the surging Saskatchewan Huskies.

The Huskies are one of the hottest teams in the country, riding a five-

game win streak, and sit only two points back of the Bears for top spot in Canada West. The Huskies will host the Bears this coming weekend for one of the biggest regular season meetings between the two programs in years.

“You go through their line-up and

they’re four [lines] deep. [David] Reekie is playing really strong in goal, so we have to go in there and just play a smart, steady game. The first 10 minutes against them is going to be key, and we have to be disciplined. Any time you go in there

with the tight confines [of Rutherford Rink], goaltending is going to be key,” Thurston pointed out.

“It’s going to be jam-packed, and it’s going to be a playoff-style atmosphere. We just have to come in and keep our heads about us.”

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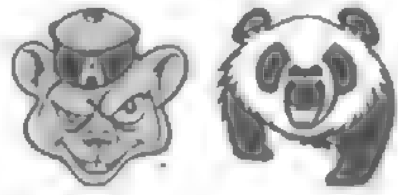
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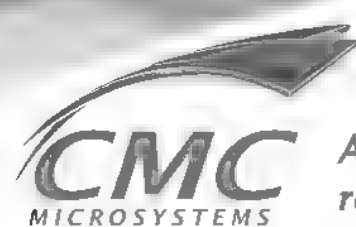
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PANDAS
6:00 PM
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GOLDEN
BEARS
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GSJS Special General Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2010

6pm

Room 3-04

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

1. Introductory remarks
2. Voting for 2 Volunteer Representative to represent Gateway volunteers on the Editor-in-Chief hiring board on March 5
3. Voting for 3 Volunteer Representatives to represent Gateway volunteers on the Line Editor hiring board on March 12
4. Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to February 17 and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you meet these qualifications and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca. This meeting is also open to the public.



FILE PHOTOS: AQUIB SHIRAZI

White-hot Pandas burn up ice

On an eight-game winning streak, Pandas refuse to be bogged down by history

hockeypreview

Pandas vs. Saskatchewan Huskies

February 11-12, both at 7 p.m.
Clare Drake Arena

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

With playoff implications on the line, the Puck Pandas will play host to the Saskatchewan Huskies for their final regular season series of the year, hoping to cement the top spot in the Canada West with a pair of victories and extend their impressive winning streak to 10 with a pair of victories this weekend.

The two teams have fought it out in three conference games already this season, with the Pandas winning each one of them by a single goal. But while the Pandas have tussled to contain the Dogs in their matches so far this season, the Green and Gold will hope to utilize their recent successes to slingshot themselves past the Huskies this weekend.

"I've been very happy with how it's come along. We've made a lot of strides in terms of our play, effort and focus," Pandas head coach Howie Draper explained, acknowledging that the Pandas success during the second half of the regular season has given his team plenty of momentum moving forward into the critical part of the year. "As you're moving into playoffs, you want to be peaking at the right time and I really get the sense that we are on our way to doing that."

A key aspect of the Pandas' whirlwind successes this season has been their ability to share the scoring glory. With their first line happy to take a back seat on the offensive end to support their teammates and allow them the chance to get pucks in the net, the squad has developed a dynamic team chemistry that has been difficult for their opponents to solve.

In their recent games against the

"In the past we've kind of felt the burden of our successes. But this year, because we haven't by any stretch dominated, we aren't thinking there's extra pressure to repeat."

HOWIE DRAPER
HEAD COACH, PANDAS HOCKEY

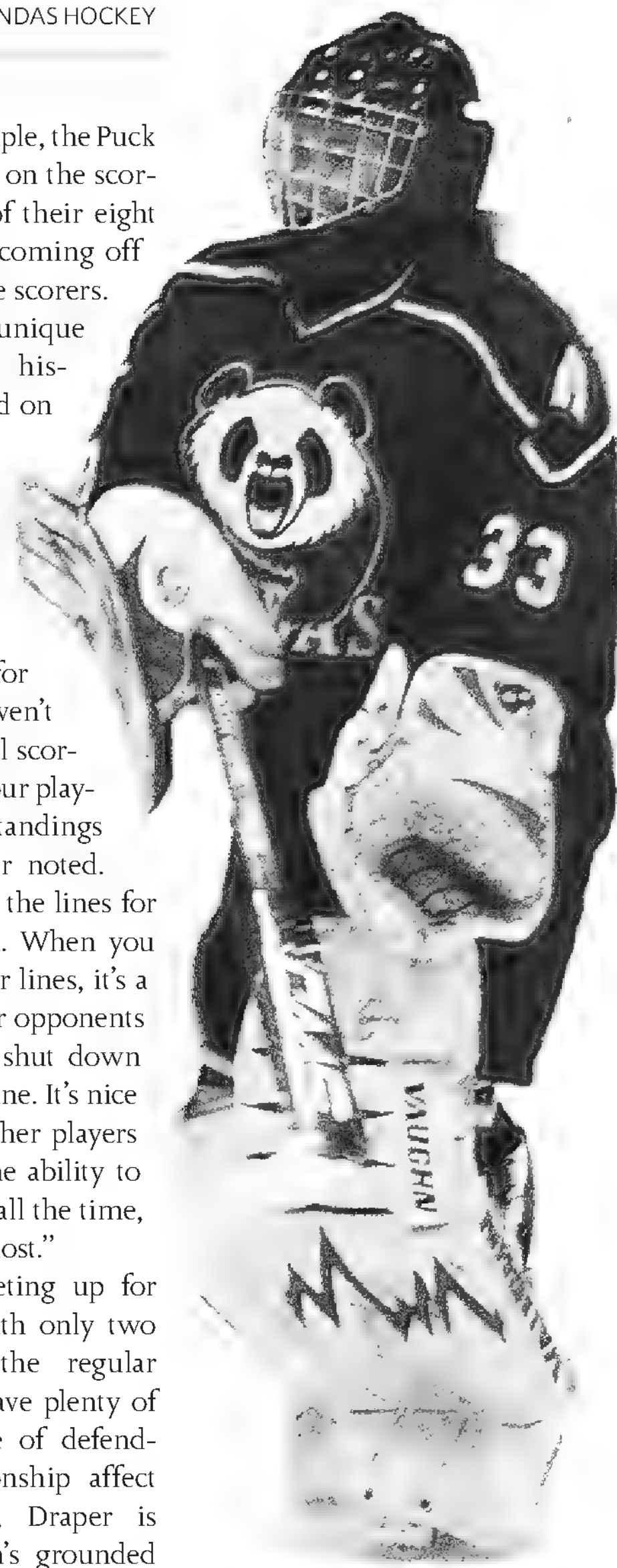
character, in combination with their well-rounded offence, will be a potent arrangement.

"In the past we've kind of felt the burden of our successes. But this year because we haven't by any stretch dominated, we aren't thinking that there is extra pressure to repeat. We understand that anything can happen on any night in this league. We just need to approach the game in a certain way and focus on that instead of focusing on what has happened in the past."

Regina Cougars, for example, the Puck Pandas had six players in on the scoring act, with only two of their eight goals over the weekend coming off the sticks of their top-line scorers. While this dynamic is unique for the Pandas, whose historic successes have stood on the shoulders of one or two prolific scorers, the team is optimistic their new character will lead to more victories this season.

"It's been a positive for our team all year. We haven't had a lot of stand-out goal scorers all season — none of our players are in the top of the standings in that category," Draper noted. "We've had to rely on all the lines for our offensive production. When you have scorers from all your lines, it's a lot more difficult for your opponents to develop a strategy to shut down more than just your top line. It's nice to know that we have other players on the team that have the ability to put the puck away, if not all the time, at least when it matters most."

The pressure is ratcheting up for the Green and Gold. With only two games remaining in the regular season, the squad will have plenty of time to let the pressure of defending a national championship affect their psyche. However, Draper is optimistic that the team's grounded



Wrestlers look to shock opposition in CanWest finals

wrestling preview

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

The young and inexperienced University of Alberta wrestling team will hope to pull the cat out of the bag this weekend when they travel to the University of Saskatchewan for the Canada West Finals.

With only two athletes on the team with more than one year wearing the Green and Gold leotard, the varsity wrestlers have faced plenty of adversity this season in the lead-up tournaments to this weekend's pivotal meet. However, as head coach Owen Dawkins explains, the underdog Bears and Pandas have made some tremendous technical strides — progress that makes him optimistic that all 17 Alberta wrestlers competing will put on a positive showing and qualify for CIS Nationals in Thunder Bay at the end of the month.

"I'm really excited. I think our team is looking good. We're young, but I think the future is looking great for us. We are going to surprise a lot of people," Dawkins said.

The Green and Gold's recent success has come behind the footsteps of two successful meets for the team. Thriving off home mat advantage in the Golden Bear invitational tournament that the squad hosted in early January, the Golden Bears and Pandas collected five medals, including a gold medal won by Pandas rookie Sabrina Kelly in the women's 67 kg category.



"I like the idea that we are unknowns. If we go in and completely bomb, nobody is going to say a word. But if we go in and do what we are capable of, all of a sudden it's 'Woah. Did U of A actually do that?'"

OWEN DAWKINS
HEAD COACH
BEARS AND PANDAS WRESTLING

they have the experience to fall back on. With time comes experience," Dawkins explained.

But for now, although his squad may not have developed a mental fortitude to be considered a force in the varsity wrestling community, Dawkins remains satisfied in playing the underdog role — perhaps something out of the ordinary is in the cards for his team this year.

"I like the idea that we are unknowns," Dawkins said with a grin. "If we go in and completely bomb, nobody is going to say a word. But if we go in and do what we are capable of, all of a sudden it's 'Whoa. Did U of A actually do that?' We like to play the underdog role. It won't last for very long, because I know in a very short time we are going to be the top dogs. We like our role, but at the same time we are always going to be a surprise."

FILE PHOTO: CLAUDINE CHAMPION

The wrestling team then travelled to the Brock Open in St. Catharines, Ont., picking up an additional seven medals and putting three Pandas atop the podium.

But the young Bears and Pandas are still struggling to shore up their confidence as they head into the most important leg of the year. The Alberta

wrestlers have been susceptible to inconsistencies in their performance due to their relative inexperience. For Dawkins, a former Golden Bears wrestler, the challenge has been to persuade his athletes that, while they may not have proven it on the mat yet, they all have the capabilities to compete with the best varsity wrestlers

from across the country.

"From day one, I've always known how good our team could be. But one of the biggest challenges is convincing the team that they can get to nationals and that they actually belong. When you have a young team, it's really hard to get them to buy into the fact that they are good wrestlers when

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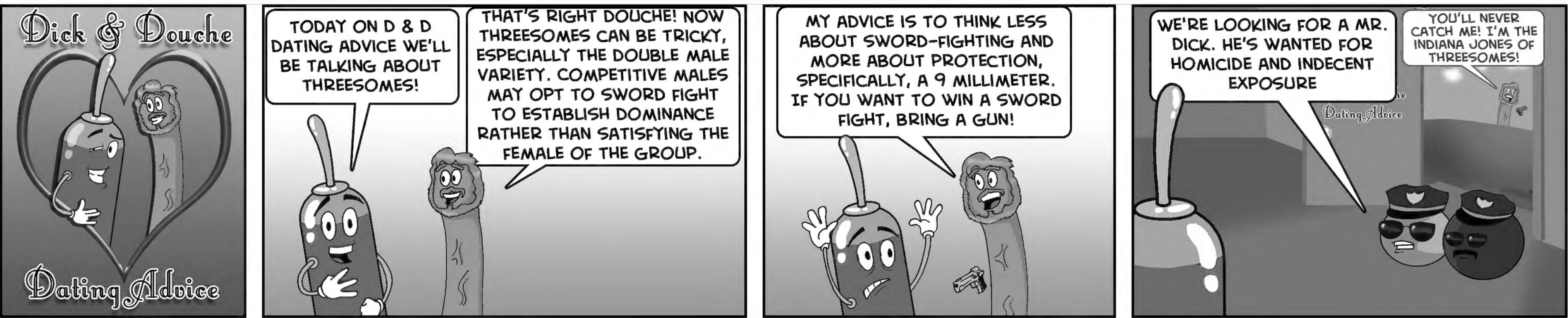
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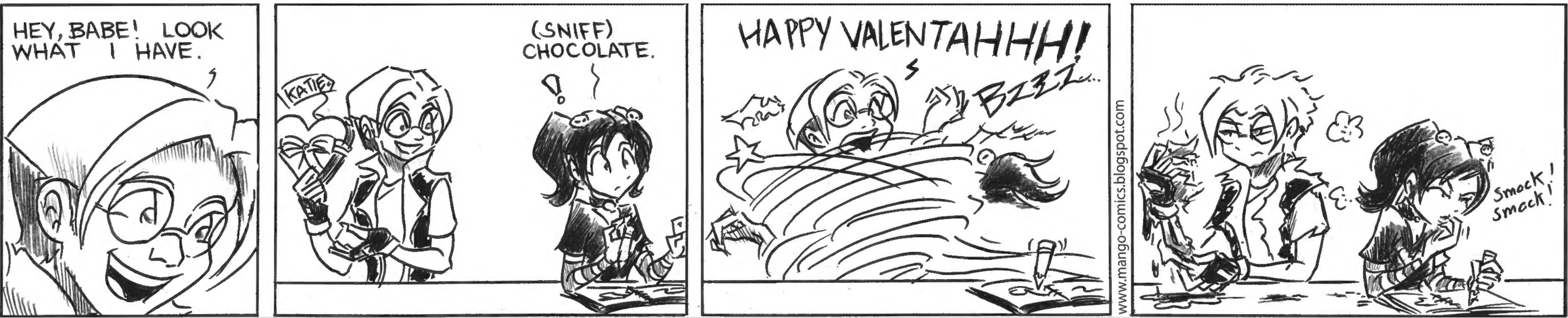
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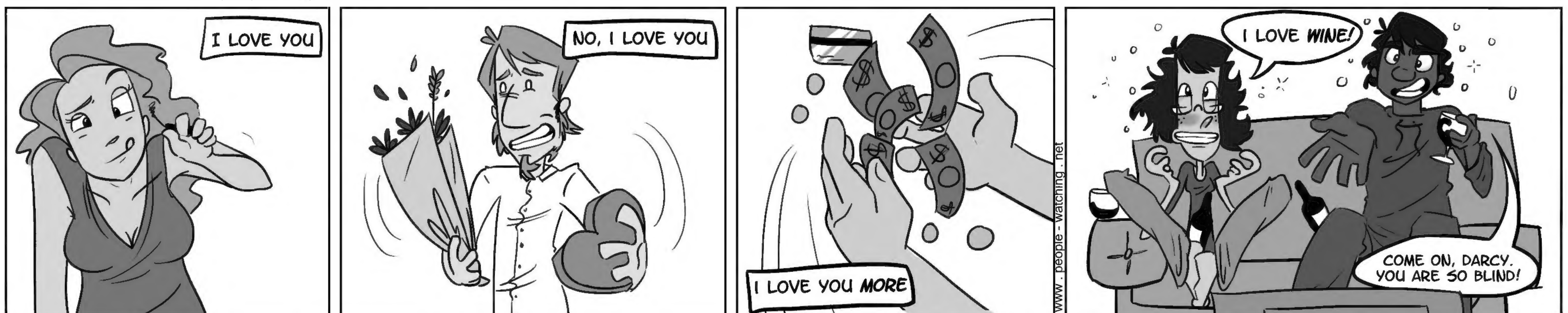
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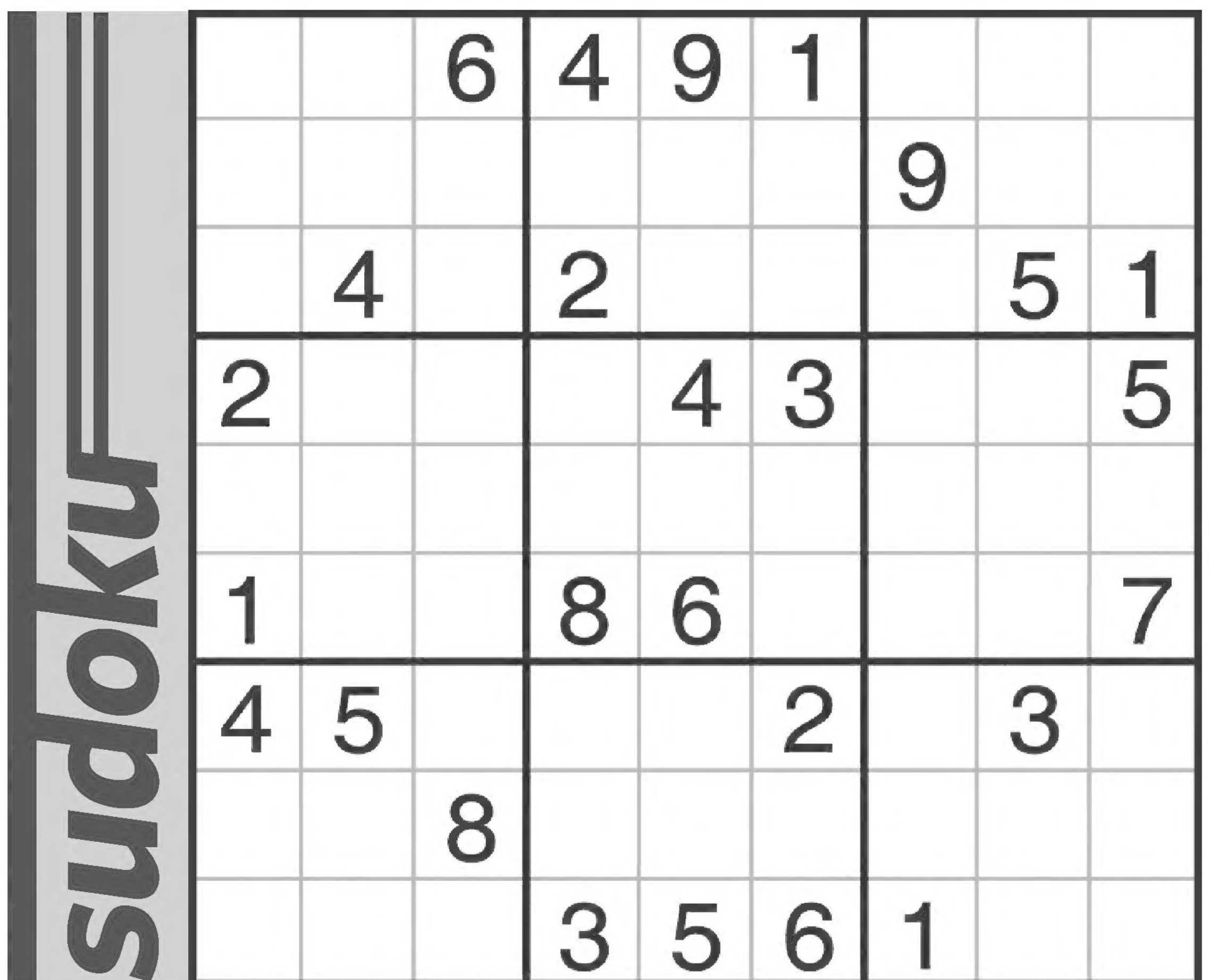
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5. Uh, what else is there? Maybe MSN messenger? Do people still use that?
6. Craigslist, I’ve found to be hit and miss. I’ve written songs dedicated to my cock and balls, yet nobody seems to enjoy them. Well, except for Perry. He likes it.
7. Unprotected webcams, people. Unprotected webcams.
8. Use the iPhone app that tells you where the closest sexual encounter is to your location. It’s the shizz.



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